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THE TIMES

No. 65,403 FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 1995

Howard scores Commons victory



Howard: he said Blair was unfit for office

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD emerged unscathed last night after comfortably surviving a Labour attack on his handling of the Prison Service and the sacking of its head Derek Lewis.

In one of the noisiest and most acrimonious debates in recent Commons history the Home Secretary was given a 49-vote majority after a speech in which he savagely criticised the Labour leadership and Mr Lewis.

He crowned a strong parliamentary performance by accusing Tony Blair of being unfit for office because he had allowed himself to be used as a vehicle for "the spleen of a bitter man." A Labour motion deploring his unwillingness to accept responsibility for serious operational failures in the prison service was rejected by 280 votes to 231.

But Labour claimed last night that Mr Howard had failed completely to dispose of the two central charges against him — that he had sought the suspension rather than the removal of John Marriot, the former Governor of Parkhurst, and that he insisted that Mr Marriott be moved from Parkhurst on January 10 this year, the day he made his Commons statement on the escapes, rather than later as Mr Lewis wanted.

On *Channel 4 News* Mr Lewis said he had opposed the decision to remove Mr Marriott on January 10. He said the word "today" was included in he draft presented to the Home Secretary. "It was a word I objected to. The Home Secretary insisted it remain in."

The debate was short and completely dominated by the speeches of Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Mr Howard. At times the Commons truned into a beargarden as Conservative MPs tried to destabilise Mr Straw by keeping up a constant barrage of mutterings against him.

Mr Straw was often discomfited by barracking during a speech in which he said the Prison Service was in crisis through the exercise of "power without responsibility" by Mr Howard. He claimed that there was "overwhelming evidence" of interference by Mr Howard in the day-to-day running of the service.

Pressure had continued on Mr Howard in the hours leading up to the debate with the resignation of a second of the four non-executive directors of the Prisons Board. Mrs Urmila Bannerjee followed Geoffrey Keeys in quitting in protest at the sacking of Mr Lewis after the highly critical Learmont report on prison security.

Mr Howard had decided in advance to cast aside Whitehall rules in order to clear himself of charges that he had been less than frank with the Commons. He had planned to disclose the confidential minutes of a meeting between himself and Mr Lewis, in order to show conclusively that the Governor of Parkhurst was removed on the orders of Mr Lewis and not as a result of pressure from Mr Howard.

In the event Mr Straw, who spoke first, revealed the minutes to back his own case that Mr Howard had told Mr Lewis on the morning of January 10 that he wanted Mr Marriott suspended and not moved.

The minutes, addressed to Mr Lewis, stated that the the Home Secretary has said that he entirely agreed with Mr Lewis's analysis that Mr Marriott could not stay as Governor of Parkhurst "but he wondered whether it was right for Mr Marriott to be moved to other duties as distinct from being suspended from duty'.'

Mr Straw alleged that for all

Continued on page 2, col 1

Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21

£40m bill for Euro ruling on medicines

By Frances Gibb, Nicholas Wood and Charles Bremner

THE Government is facing a health bill of tens of millions of pounds after the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday that men are entitled to free prescriptions at the same age as women.

Amid protests from Eurosceptic Tories that the Luxembourg-based court had become "a superior non-elected government", Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said the Government must comply with the ruling at a cost to the taxpayer of £40 million for the first year.

He announced that more than one million men aged 60 to 64 were entitled to free prescriptions from today, and that men in this age group who had paid for a prescription in the last three months were eligible for a refund of the £5.25 charge.

In its judgment, the latest in a stream of rulings to upset London, the European Union's highest court said Britain's system, which gives free medicine to women at 60 and to men at 65, was sexual discrimination. Britain, it said, must provide free medical prescriptions for retired men at the same age as women.

The Government bowed swiftly to the ruling. Within hours, advertisements were placed with national newspapers inviting men aged 60 to 64 to claim their money back for prescriptions paid in the last month — a concession which will cost around £10 million.

But there was controversy over the three-month limit set by the Government on the period for back claims. The court had rejected a Government pleanot to give a retrospective ruling. The court said there was "no reason to limit the temporal effect of this judgment."

The ruling will cost the Government £30 million a year in lost charges from Britain's 1.4 million men aged 60-64, plus the £10 million which may be claimed back for charges already paid. But the Goverment limit on back claims to three months could save up to £500 million.

The court decision was welcomed by older people's groups, but denounced as an "outrage" by Tory Eurosceptics, who seized on the ruling as fresh fuel for their campaign to curb the Euro-court's powers.

It was a personal victory for Cyril Richardson, the 66-year-old town crier of Walsall, in the West Midlands. An asthma sufferer, he was paying about £50 a year in charges.

He said it was unjust that he had to wait longer than Evyleen, his wife, for free prescriptions. "With the greatest respect to the ladies, I could not see why men should not be equal with them when it came to paying for medicine. It seemed to me a terrible injustice."

Mr Richardson argued that UK regulations exempting women at the age of 60 and men at the age of 65 were discriminatory and in breach of a 1979 European Community directive providing for equal treatment of the sexes in social security matters. He was backed by Help the Aged and other organisations in his five-year battle.

The Government contested the case from the start, arguing that the British prescription charge system was not covered by European discrimination directives.

Don Steele, executive director of the Association of Retired Persons over 50, said: "It's great news and will have an enormous affect on the lives of around 1.4 million men." But he said the time-limit on claims could spark a new legal challenge.

Sally Greengross, the director general of Age Concern, said: "Many men between 60 and 64 may have suffered financial hardship because of medication costs. This decision offers them no consolation for past expenditure."

Judgment now, page 4
Refund form, page 15





REUTERS

Political incorrectness, Russian-style: President Yeltsin goes on the attack at a press conference in the Kremlin yesterday

Yeltsin proves that Russia is in an unsafe pair of hands

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday surprised journalists and embarrassed his advisers after he opened a press conference in the Kremlin by pulling off another bizarre public stunt.

Emerging into an ornate reception hall, Mr Yeltsin at first ignored assembled journalists and instead sneaked up on two unsuspecting women members of his staff, who were each given a presidential pinch.

The first jumped out of her chair in surprise, the more so when she realised the identity of the prankster. The second confronted her assailant with an inaudible remark. Participants at the press conference described the Russian leader as looking "a little stiff but otherwise healthy".

The incident is likely to be added to the long list of similar strange episodes. Last year in Berlin the Russian leader seized the baton from a military bandsman before drunkenly conducting a regimental orchestra. He once threw his former press secretary into an icy river during a boat trip.

Russians have a traditional tolerance of boisterous behaviour but are conscious of the need for dignity among their leaders. The incident that more than anything caused the downfall of Khrushchev was his banging his shoe on the desk at the UN. Russians were initially amused by Mr Yeltsin's escapades, but are increasingly critical of such behaviour.

Kozyrev dismissed, page 15

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



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Doctors urge women on 'unsafe' Pill not to panic

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

DOCTORS urged women not to panic last night after one and a half million users of the Pill were advised to switch to a safer brand because of the risk of blood clots.

In one of the biggest upsets in the 30-year history of the Pill, Government scientists issued a warning that certain brands carry twice the risk of causing clots in leg veins.

Doctors and pharmacists were alerted to the danger in a letter from the Committee on Safety of Medicines yesterday. The letter, agreed after an emergency meeting of the committee last week, recommends that women change to another brand after they finish their monthly course unless they are intolerant of other oral contraceptives.

Seven brands of the combined pill, containing the sex hormones progestogen and oestrogen, among the 26 on the market are affected. They are Femodene, Femodene ED, Minulet, Triadene, Tri-Minulet, Marvelon and Mercilon.

All contain one of two progestogens, desogestrel and gestodene, introduced in the 1980s. They are taken by half the three million women in Britain who use oral contraceptives.

Family planning clinics are braced for calls with some already reporting an enormous number. Women were told to complete their course to avoid the risk of unwanted pregnancy, but advised to see their doctor before completion.

Professor Michael Rawlins, chairman of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, urged women taking the affected brands to consult their doctor. "The chance of a woman on the Pill experiencing a thrombosis is small. Suddenly stopping the Pill could lead to pregnancy and the likelihood of a thrombosis occurring in pregnancy is much higher than on any type of Pill."

The risk of thrombosis was put at 30 in 100,000 users per year — half the rate in pregnancy. However the risk is twice that associated with other brands (15 per 100,000 users).

Pill manufacturers reacted angrily. Wyeth Laboratories, makers of Minulet, said: "These results are inconsistent with more than ten years of substantial clinical trial data and spontaneous side-effect reports from around the world."

Safety reassurances, page 6

Princess urged to resign over Olympic bid

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

THE Princess Royal was accused yesterday in a Commons committee yesterday of "not pulling her weight" in lobbying for Manchester to host the 2000 Olympic Games.

Gerald Kaufman, Labour chairman of the National Heritage Committee, suggested that the Princess should resign as one of only two British members of the International Olympic Committee, after the failure of Manchester's bid to stage the millennium Games. The committee is investigating British attempts to host international sporting events. Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, said that after an informal meeting of the committee with members of the Manchester bid team on Monday: "We got the impression that they [two IOC members] had not pulled their weight on behalf of Britain."

Mr Ashton believed that, while the other 84 IOC members were lobbying "elbow-nudging and wheeler-dealing, like politicians", the Princess and Dame Mary Glen-Haig, the other British IOC member, thought lobbying "rather beneath them". In the ballot in 1993, Manchester finished behind Sydney and Peking.

Craig Reedie, of the British Olympic Association, told the committee that, although the Princess was an extremely busy woman, among her credentials for being an IOC member was that she had competed in the 1976 Games and was president of the International Equestrian Federation.

Sir Bob Scott, who led Manchester's Olympic bid and was listening to the evidence, said afterwards: "The Princess and Mary Glen-Haig have both announced publicly that they did not lobby, but they gave us full support over the bid."

A spokeswoman for the Princess said last night: "She made her total support for Manchester very clear."

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The House that was not made for Straw

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

THE world wanted to know where operational matters end, and where policy begins. By the end of opening speeches of the debate on prison security, that was still the question. Would the immediate transfer to other duties of Jack Straw be an operational question for Tony Blair, or a policy one? Revenge of the squeegee merchants!

If ever proof were needed that you need more than an arguable case to win a debate in our House of Commons, or that you can be on the trickiest ground yet still not lose, yesterday provided it. The Opposition saw what had looked like a powerful political opportunity crumble to dust. Michael Howard turned what was a most imperfect defence into a smashing attack not only upon Straw, but on Blair's fitness for office.

Straw got off to a dreadful start, stumbling through the metaphysics of "policy" v "operation". His unease became apparent. Tory yobs, scenting blood, grew bolder, cackling and barracking.

Then in stepped the brainy end of the streetfighting tendency: Bernard Jenkin (Colchester N) asked Straw if he would have suspended the prisons director. Unwilling to answer, Straw should have prepared a smarter way of saying so. Instead he floundered. The Tories bullied harder. It reached the point when Straw was obliged to ascribe an apparent blunder in Labour's stance to a typographical error in *The Guardian*. MPs fell about. He never recovered.

Tony Blair sat beside him like a parent watching his boy ploughing a speech-day violin recital, catgut snapping and twanging all over the place. Gradually, the muscles in Mr Blair's face twisted themselves into configurations which could have flummoxed a Scouts' knotting champion.

Opposite, Michael Howard sat sucking in his cheeks with every appearance of a cheat at marbles whose sleight of hand was outwitting the other boys. From time to time he would intervene on Straw to knock him, again, off his stride: playing, cat-like, with his prey.

Mr Straw's plight grew so dire that the Deputy Speaker, Michael Morris, ordered the Tories to leave him alone. At this they began hissing "*sssshh!*" at each other while he spoke. Blair began prompting Straw and advising him, by scowls, not to take interventions. Many will remember yesterday as "a marvellous Commons occasion". It was certainly dramatic. Yet the irony is that most MPs on both sides could see from the start, and agree, the truth: that the Home Secretary had exerted pressure, which it was hard for Mr Lewis to resist, to suspend John Marriott; but that whether this amounted to "instructing" him was theological. Did he "decide" or was he "instructed"? Maybe he was instructed to decide! Maybe he decided to take instruction! Upon this silly dispute was built an altercation where there was a sniff of truth and a whiff of humbug on both sides.

Finally Blair's patience snapped. He effectively grabbed his spokesman's portfolio from him and began challenging Howard himself — with no more success. It brutally undermined the man Howard immediately dubbed his "sidekick". Howard said Blair's allegedly bodged questions cast doubt on his fitness for office. Bluster, of course. It was the Labour leader's impetuous public humiliation of his own lieutenant which did, perhaps, raise a question.

Derek Lewis stayed away, no doubt on the advice of his PR consultants. PR v Parliament: there was something delicious in this collision between a modern stupidity and an ancient one. The old stupidities won.

Success claim for gene treatment

Gene therapy has achieved its first clearcut success, restoring normal life to four children born with a rare genetic defect that left them vulnerable to infections, scientists claim. The two Italian and two American children were born without the ability to produce an enzyme known as ADA, or adenosine deaminase, vital to the functioning of the immune system. Such children usually die young, although bone-marrow transplants or treatment with the enzyme can be life-saving.

Four years ago an American team led by Dr French Anderson from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, treated two girls by inserting the correct ADA gene into the killer T-cells of their immune systems. In *Science*, the team reports that the therapy worked and has given the cells the ability to produce ADA. A second report in the same journal from an Italian team led by Dr Claudio Bordignon tells the same story.

Fire shuts reactor

A nuclear reactor was shut down yesterday after a fire broke out at the Hartlepool power station in Cleveland. Nuclear Electric, the station operator, said that no radioactive part of the station on the banks of the Tees was affected and there was no leak of any radioactive material. None of the 581 staff was injured. However, about 5,000 gallons of oil leaked into the nearby Seaton Snook beck. Environmental protection officers from the National Rivers Authority set up booms to keep it from the river.

Murder case vet appeals

A veterinary surgeon found guilty of murdering his wife using horse drugs won leave to appeal against his conviction yesterday. Ryan James, 41, was jailed for a minimum of 20 years by Stafford Crown Court, which was told he killed his wife Sandra, the 39-year-old mother of his three children, to collect £180,000 life insurance. Lord Justice Roch, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Thayne Forbes, said it was an unusual and difficult case that merited further consideration by the full court.

Focus on boy failures

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has set up a task force to examine why boys are falling so far behind after almost 50 per cent more boys than girls failed GCSE English last year. Dr Nick Tate, SCAA chief executive, urged more "structured" teaching, saying boys responded to targets. Underachievement had to be tackled early — 9 per cent of under-seven boys chose to read rather than watch television or play computer games, compared with 30 per cent of girls. Education, page 41

Shilton deal on debts

Peter Shilton, the former England goalkeeper, escaped bankruptcy yesterday after creditors accepted his proposals to pay off debts estimated at £448,000. Mr Shilton, 46, and his wife Sue, owe the money to an undisclosed number of creditors to whom he will pay a proportion of his earnings. He said: "I got into a bit of a hole with property. That resulted in financial pressure. I tried to keep things going as best I could, but things came to a head. I am absolutely delighted that my creditors have supported by proposals."

Joint department head

Sir Tim Lankester, the civil servant at the centre of the dispute over British aid for the Pergau dam in Malaysia, has found himself out of a job after failing to win the top post in the Education and Employment Department. Michael Bichard will be the sole Permanent Secretary in the merged department from January. Mr Bichard, formerly chief executive of Gloucestershire County Council, was the first Permanent Secretary appointed by open competition.

Murder police free man

A man questioned for the second time about the murder in August of Vikki Thompson, who was attacked and left for dead while walking her dog, has been released without charge. Mark Weston, 20, was arrested on Wednesday at his home in Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. A Thames Valley police spokesman said last night that Mr Weston had been released on police bail to return at a later date.

Poverty 'worsening'

Inner-city deprivation has become worse in the past decade in some areas, according to a follow-up to the Church of England's controversial report *Faith in the City*. Ten years ago, the report singled out Bradford in West Yorkshire for the poor conditions on its estates. In 1993 Christian leaders in the city set out to see if circumstances had improved. Their two-year study that showed tenants are now faced with poverty, crime and unemployment almost daily.

Husband charged

David Howells, 47, husband of Eve Howells, the teacher killed at her home in August, has been charged with her murder and will appear in court at Huddersfield today. Two youths have already been charged with her murder.

New Spectator Editor

Frank Johnson is moving from the deputy editorship of *The Sunday Telegraph* to be Editor of the *Spectator* magazine. He replaces Dominic Lawson. Simon Heffer, deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, has resigned.

Researchers play down asthma link to pollution

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AIR pollution is unlikely to be the cause of asthma, but it does aggravate the condition, according to government scientists.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants found the link between traffic, power station and industrial fumes was much weaker than suggested. Little association was found between the regional distribution of asthma and that of air pollution and there was no convincing evidence that the disease was more common in urban than in rural areas.

Introducing their report, released today, Dr Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said: "The committee on the medical effects of air pollutants has considered all the evidence ... the report findings reveal that the link between air pollution and asthma in the UK is much less definite than has been suggested." However, he added: "It is entirely reasonable that air pollution may excacerbate asthma attacks."

He said the committee would shortly be publishing reports on links between air pollution and heart attacks, bronchitis and other illnesses. He hinted that these would present a far stronger case for dramatic reductions in traffic and other airborne emissions.

The asthma findings, based on a review of research in Britain and abroad, challenge the belief that a sharp rise in cases in the past three decades is a result of fumes. Currently about 10 per cent of children and 4 to 6 per cent of adults in the UK are diagnosed as having asthma.

Professor Stephen Holgate, chairman of the committee, who is based at Southampton University, said yesterday that the causes of asthma may be linked with a decline in nutrition, particularly in the mother during pregnancy, an increase in smoking among women and the rise in well-insulated homes that suit the house dust mite.

Dr Malcolm Green, president of the British Lung Foundation, disputed the report's findings and said there was a need for urgent research. "I am in no doubt that air pollution can make asthma worse in susceptible patients. It may be no coincidence that the UK's worst ever asthma outbreak last summer happened at a time when a silent smog hung over our cities."

The findings coincide with scientists linking severe asthma attacks with foam bedding. Researchers fear many parents may be unwittingly increasing their childrens' risk of the worst kind of asthma by switching from feather to man-made bedding in the belief that the feathers are triggering attacks. New findings challenge the practice and indicate synthetic materials may be a greater hazard than natural materials.

"The idea that feather pillows increase the risk of allergic asthma is widely accepted but remarkably there have been no studies until now. Our study suggests a substantially lower risk of troublesome asthma among children using feather bedding relative to those using non-feather bedding," say the researchers, whose findings are published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The scientists, led by Dr David Strachan of St George's Hospital medical school in southwest London, estimate that foam pillows could be behind as many as 53 per cent of the people who suffer severe asthma, an acute and life threatening form of the disease.

TIM CUFF



More haste, less speed: Nigel Mansell yesterday in his part-time police role

New driving force for Mansell

NIGEL MANSELL, the former Formula One and Indy-car champion, swapped his £100,000 Mercedes for a diesel patrol car yesterday as he started his first day as a special constable with Devon and Cornwall police, based in Exeter. But he will remain strictly a passenger for a year until completing a one-day course, a police driving test and gaining experience with a fully trained police driver. Mansell said he signed up as a special to put something back into society. "If we can give the children of today a little bit of a role model from the point of view of drinking and driving, safe driving and the use of seatbelts, it might go some way towards helping a number of people in the future," he said. He will put in about four hours' duty a week, including Bank Holidays and weekends, and will tackle everything from co-ordinating neighbourhood watch schemes to working with regular officers on drugs raids.

Two hurt in blast at arms research plant

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TWO civil servants were badly injured yesterday when ammunition exploded at a high security Ministry of Defence base. The man and the woman, who were involved in weapons testing at West Freugh in Stranraer, were taken by air ambulance to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for burns treatment.

The condition of the man was said last night to be critical. The woman was said to be serious. The Ministry refused to name the two but said they were civilian scientists employed to test weapons.

The explosion happened at around 11.30am and the area was immediately cordoned off. Dumfries and Galloway Police were informed and an inquiry is underway. A spokesman said there was no threat to the public.

The plant is run by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, a government agency set up under the Next Steps programme. A spokesman for the agency, which is based at Farnborough, Hampshire, said: "The pair were working on a piece of ammunition when it exploded for some reason.

"It was not a rocket but some piece of ammunition which is tested at this particular base. The building is still structurally sound and it appears to have been a localised type of explosion although both people are seriously injured."

Other workers were treated for shock at the base after witnessing the explosion.

West Freugh employs about 200 people. The former RAF base is one of the main employers in Wigtownshire and is used extensively for aircraft and air weapons testing on land and sea. It is guarded by MoD police.

Surface to air missiles testing is undertaken at West Freugh and it has a large bombing zone extending into Luce Bay on the Solway Firth.

Howard scores Commons victory

Continued from page 1

the bluster the minutes proved that Mr Howard had raised the issue of suspension.

Mr Howard said that he had every right to be consulted and that in any case Mr Marriott had not been suspended but moved, as Mr Lewis had decided. "I was entitled to discuss the action which it was proposed to take, and I did. I was not entitled to give instructions — I did not. It was the Director General who decided that the Governor should be moved — he was."

Mr Straw had alleged that Mr Lewis had left the meeting to consider a deadline set for him by Mr Howard for changing his mind. Mr Howard said he had no idea why he left the meeting but he agreed there was a deadline.

With Mr Marriott watching from the public gallery, Mr Straw told the Home Secretary: "It's well known, not least to the press, that he wanted Mr Marriott's head and wanted to present it to the House that afternoon."

As the debate developed into an angry shouting match Mr Blair intervened, asking whether it was true that the suggestion that Mr Lewis be removed on January 10 came from Mr Howard. To thunderous cheers from the Tories Mr Howard said the intervention cast the most serious questions on Mr Blair's judgement and was one he would come to regret. Mr Blair put the same question and Mr Howard denied that he had inserted "today" in the draft.

But within minutes of Mr Howard's speech senior Labour sources went on the attack again. They said that the statement had been drafted by Richard Wilson, then Home Office Permanent Secretary, on the instructions of Mr Howard. Mr Lewis objected and was overruled.

John Major had earlier set the tone for the devate when he said that the Home Secretary "richly deserves and gets my full support in his fight against crime."

Peter Riddell, page 11
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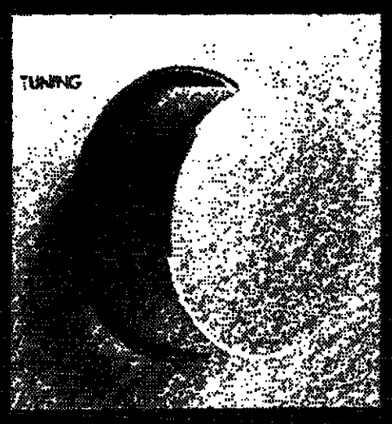
Space missions saved by agreement on cuts

BY NICK NUTTALL

SCORES of 21st century space missions, including one to Mercury and another to search for Einstein's elusive gravity waves, appeared to be safe last night after Britain dropped its demands for deep cuts in the European Space Agency's programme.

Last night member states, including Britain, agreed a compromise in which the £292 million science budget will be cut by 15 per cent over five years. The cut is likely to satisfy critics of the agency who claim it could make big savings by being more tightly run while keeping most missions on course.

The full consequences are still to be seen but experts are predicting that it is likely that some space missions will be delayed by a few years but not cancelled.



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'We remained optimistic of a normal future for the girls — this is a terrible loss'

'Unlucky' Siamese twins die from rare bowel disease

By Kate Alderson

THE Siamese twins Chloe and Nicole Astbury died within minutes of each other yesterday from a rare bowel disease only days after doctors had discussed allowing them home for Christmas.

The girls died at 1.40am after a three-day fight against the infection, which affects newborn babies and was unrelated to their condition. Their surgeon said they were "extremely unlucky" to have become infected.

Brian, 26, and Melanie Astbury, 25, the twins' parents, from Denton, Greater Manchester, were said to be devastated. "Melanie and Brian were full of hope and this turn of events was totally unexpected for them both," Andrea McWatt, their solicitor, said.

The twins died at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, where they were born five weeks ago and underwent life-saving surgery to separate a shared bowel within three days of their birth. The girls, the first Siamese twins in Britain for nine years, were joined at the abdomen.

The fact that they shared only one major organ, the liver, had given surgeons hope that they could be successfully separated. Nicole developed the bowel condition, known as neonatal necrotising enterocolitis (NEC), last Sunday and became seriously unwell. The infection, which spread to Chloe, has a 25 per cent mortality rate and particularly affects babies who have a stressful period early in life.



Alan Dickson said the infection was "bad luck"

The health of both girls deteriorated during the last three days of their lives and they were placed on life support machines on Tuesday night. Nicole died first.

Alan Dickson, paediatric surgeon, told a news conference yesterday that the disease originates in the bowel but eventually affects all the vital systems in the body.

"The body's own bacteria can mutate under stress and cause this infection," he said. "It is not a disease which is caught or contracted through feeding. It would have been impossible to save the life of either twin by surgery.

"The situation was such that both babies deteriorated so quickly a surgical operation in their condition would almost certainly have been fatal."

Mr Dickson spoke of how he had to tell the twins' parents that their children were dying. "I spoke to them on the telephone inviting them to come to the hospital and when they arrived I spoke to them in the privacy of a quiet room advising them we could do no more for these children and they were going to die.

"We asked if they wanted to come and spend some time with the babies then, but they were unable to do so, such was their distress." The girls, who had been on life support systems since Tuesday night, "died of their own accord", he said.



CHRIS LOWTE

Andrea McWatt said Brian and Melanie Astbury were full of hope and the twins' death was totally unexpected

The couple, who have a three-year-old son, Nathan, held the girls for a short time after they died.

Nicole and Chloe had been the victims of three strokes of bad fortune, said Mr Dickson: "It is very bad luck to be a conjoined twin in the first place but our information on the scans was very encouraging.

"But as you know they had an operation revealing congenital problems with the gut far beyond what we could have expected. To come through what they came through in the first 11 days of life and then to be hit with this out of the blue was extremely bad luck." He said medical staff had remained optimistic that it would have been viable to separate the babies so they could have looked forward to normal lives.

The twins had progressed much better than they could reasonably have expected after their major operation four weeks ago and had been fed on milk, both orally and through a tube to the abdomen. Only last week doctors had discussed with Mr and Mrs Astbury the possibility of the babies being discharged from hospital.

"We remained optimistic and were hopeful for a normal future for the twins," added Mr Dickson. "Their death is a terrible, tragic loss and has deeply saddened everyone at the hospital."

Cash alert as club votes on women

By David Charter

MEMBERS of a gentlemen's club are being alerted to financial difficulties as they vote on changes expected to hasten equal treatment for women.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the historic The United Oxford and Cambridge University Club in Pall Mall, admitted in a letter that it expects "a large loss" for the first time in 16 years.

Controversy over the club's unequal treatment of women, in the year Oxford celebrates the 75th anniversary of its first female graduates, has triggered the resignation of many members, including 69 heads of Oxbridge colleges. Women are allowed to become "lady associate members" with restricted access.

Sir Bryan said: "The club is also budgeting for a large loss next year." The overall financial position was not under immediate threat because of the size of its reserves, but he suspected most members would agree that "a resolution of our constitutional arrangements would be, to put it mildly, helpful".

A ballot in 1993 showed a three-to-one majority in favour of equal rights, but the turnout was only 49 per cent, just short of the required 50 per cent. The new ballot will decide whether club rules can be changed by a straight two-thirds majority of those voting, and be challenged every two years instead of five.

Farmer buried illegal house

By Lin Jenkins

A FARM contractor buried the lower floor of his house and planted grass on top to fool council officials into believing he had demolished it in accordance with a High Court order. He later unearthed it to make a bungalow.

Trevor Sedgbeer had been told to demolish the house, set into the hillside of his Devon smallholding, after building it without planning permission. Instead he covered the top and sides with earth and seeded it. When South Hams council officials visited Tullysmead Farm, Stoke Gabriel, they saw only a grassy mound. The council wrote to Mr Sedgbeer that it was satisfied that he had complied with the court order, granted last October, to demolish the house by January 31 or face three months in prison for contempt of court.

However, in July Mr Sedgbeer, 47, unearthed the remaining floor to make the two-bedroom bungalow. "I have complied with the enforcement notice to take it down to ground level and the council confirmed in writing that I had done so," he said. He insists that the council never asked him if the building was still there, or whether he was still living in it.

Graham Rowe, of the council, said the case would go back to the High Court, in which case Mr Sedgeer could again face jail. "Through his concealment of the building and his subsequent action in revealing it, it is clear he has not complied with the notice."

Night in Belfast causes jitters in Washington

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton wants to spend a night in Belfast during his visit to Northern Ireland next month. It is a desire met with little enthusiasm in London.

The British Embassy in Washington talks nervously of an "accommodation problem", while visions of the security apparatus surrounding an American President ensconced in the heart of Belfast make ministers quake.

There had been no indication previously that the President would wish to stay in Ulster, where he was expected to spend a day visiting Belfast and Londonderry before heading to less controversial quarters in Dublin.

But Mr Clinton is said to have requested that the schedule for his visit include one night north of the border, preferably in the heart of Belfast. Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador to London, made an advance expedition earlier this month to work on the detail.



Admiral Crowe was sent to prepare way

Administration officials said Mr Clinton had earmarked the Europa, the large central Belfast hotel, as a possible venue. It was attacked more than 20 times at the height of troubles in the Province — a symbolic factor not lost on the White House. Now completely refurbished, the hotel was reopened last year and has suites enough for any presidential party.

One British diplomat in Washington said yesterday: "It is well known that he wants to stay a night in Belfast but there is an accommodation problem. There are no head of state facilities — it creates difficulties over both security and the proper level of accommodation." But he added: "If the President wants something then I am sure we can sort it out."

The Government is concerned that an already delicate programme in the North, which includes a walk along the walls overlooking Bogside in Londonderry and a visit to the peace line in West Belfast, will become more strained the longer Mr Clinton spends.

The Clinton Administration, on the other hand, is clearly keen to wrest control of the visit from London to ensure the trip plays favourably to its own domestic audience in the United States.

Grants help film makers to see the bigger picture

By Dalya Alberge

THE Arts Council is to invest £5 million a year in high profile British films to try to stem the "brain drain" of talent to Hollywood. Up to four films will benefit. The Greenlight Fund will give priority to films produced in Britain. Earlier yesterday, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said that she expected the National Lottery to become a major funder of films.

LONDON'S film-makers received an important boost yesterday as an agency was founded to cut red tape and entice production companies to the capital.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said that her department was giving £100,000 to the London Film Commission, enabling it to start next year.

For more than a decade, the British film industry has campaigned for an agency in the capital. It argued that the commission will find ways for film-makers to overcome traffic and security problems, and work at sites as awkward as Whitehall, the Palace of Westminster and Buckingham Palace. Foreign film-makers have complained of having to grapple with the bureaucracy of 33 different boroughs.

Mrs Bottomley said: "The international film industry is fast-moving and mobile. Increasingly, producers have a choice of countries in which to base their productions. So the UK cannot afford to rest on its laurels."

The grant was welcomed yesterday by Sir Sydney Samuelson, the British Film Commissioner, head of the government-funded organisation which, for 4½ years, has devoted itself to wooing film-makers to Britain. "A film commission working for London is absolutely vital since 80 per cent of all the UK film and television production activity emanates from, or is based in, the Greater London area," Sir Sydney said.

It is estimated that film-makers spend more than £50,000 a day on people and services. There is also the long-lasting effect that a film shot in London can have on drawing visitors to the capital.

The British Film Commission argues that a local commission would help to overcome the problems faced, for example, by the film *Patriot Games*, which featured an assassination attempt on an American diplomat as he left Whitehall.

The Metropolitan Police could not allow ten production trucks to park outside Whitehall: the film company's request came months after an IRA rocket-attack from a parked truck.

The British Film Commission found them a similar building in Greenwich, south-east London.

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More embarrassing cases for the Government in the pipeline after it loses prescription charges battle

MPs urge Major to restrict powers of European court

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE European Court of Justice ruling against the Government yesterday will serve as fresh ammunition for critics pressing John Major to seek curbs on the Luxembourg court's influence on Britain's law and policy.

Further cases likely to embarrass the Government are in the pipeline, including decisions on the qualifying age for free bus passes, which differs for men and women, and whether widowed fathers should receive the same benefits as widows. Currently they receive nothing, while widowed mothers get a £1,000 death grant, the widowed mothers' allowance and other benefits.

A number of MPs, many of them Conservative, cite a series of judgments where they believe the court has exceeded its powers and, instead of interpreting the Treaty of Rome, has become bent upon a mission of advancing the EU and federalism.

Yesterday Bernard Jenkin, the Conservative member for Colchester North, said the ruling on prescription charges was illogical. In an interview on BBC1's *One O'Clock News*, he said: "It underlines how chaotic the collision between national legal systems and European legal systems can be. I think the real lesson is that the Prime Minister is absolutely right to keep airing suspicions about the development of a federal Europe and the European Affairs Minister David Davis is right to talk about the arbitrary powers of the European court, because this isn't a free handout, it all has to be paid for."

He and other MPs are now looking towards the series of ministers' meetings before next year's inter-governmental conference as the chance to outline proposals for curbs on the court's powers.

Among these are for national parliaments, or the Council of Ministers, to be given the right to challenge court judgments at variance with their understanding of treaty obligations; and for access to be restricted by allowing only the highest courts of member states to refer questions of law to Luxembourg (at present most referrals come from lower courts). Such proposals, which effectively give politicians power to question the court's judgments, would be strongly opposed. Less controversial are plans to allow the Euro-judges to express dissenting opinions (at present one unanimous judgment on behalf of all the judges is given).

The European Court of Justice has exercised its powers vigorously since it was established under the Treaty of Rome in 1957. MPs such as Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, claim that the court's 15 judges have a "gargantuan appetite for more power on the basis of increased competencies which they are themselves creating".

But the way the court exercises its powers has also come under attack from leading legal academics. Sir Patrick Neill, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, has argued that on the basis of rulings since 1963, the European Court gives more weight to sweeping federalist sentiments in the preambles to European treaties and to general clauses in legislation than to the precise wording of detailed clauses.

Court judgment, page 1

DEB JENSON



Cyril Richardson acclaiming his victory at the Houses of Parliament yesterday. He decided to fight because the charges were "unfair"

Jubilant town crier announces: 'We've won!'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE town crier whose victory over prescription charges may cost the Government millions of pounds danced a jig and shouted "we've won" as the news arrived by fax.

Colleagues from the Association for Retired Persons over 50, who backed Cyril Richardson, 66, from Walsall, promised him champagne and predicted they would win a second victory in a case they are fighting in Europe over bus passes. Mr Richardson, a former college lecturer who developed asthma when he was 60, said he decided to pursue the case after being struck by the injustice of his situation. "At the age of 62, I realised my wife wasn't paying the same charge that I was for prescriptions. I dislike inconsistency, especially by governments.

"This now gives men in the future the opportunity to save themselves hundreds of pounds a year in prescription charges. It could also mean a small windfall for those who can claim back what they've had to pay out."

A decision on bus passes by the Advocate-General of the European Court on a case against Wrekin district council, Shropshire, is expected this month. Some councils issue the free passes to women at 60 but make men wait till 65. Maurice Oldfield, chairman of the Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages, which is funding the case with the Association for Retired Persons over 50, said: "The Advocate-General's opinion on the bus pass case was due on 12 October but has been delayed — apparently because he was waiting for the full court's decision in the prescription charge case. We now expect it later this month." He said the cases were based on the same principle.

Sacked wife wins pregnancy case

BY FRANCES GIBB

THE sacking of a woman who found she was pregnant two weeks after being recruited to cover for someone on maternity leave was sex discrimination, the House of Lords held yesterday.

The decision, based on a ruling of the European Court of Justice, means that Carole Webb is entitled to compensation because she was treated less favourably than a man on the grounds of her sex.

Mrs Webb, of West Drayton, west London, was appointed by EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd as an import operations clerk in 1987. She was told the job was available because another clerk, Valerie Stewart, would be leaving to have a baby.

At the start of a six-month training period under Mrs Stewart, Mrs Webb found she was expecting a baby.

The company's managing director said he had no alternative but to dismiss her because she would not be available at the very time she was needed. Mrs Webb's claim that her dismissal constituted sex discrimination was rejected by an industrial tribunal, which ruled that the real reason for her sacking was her anticipated inability to do the job; a man similarly incapable for medical or other reasons would have been dismissed in the same way.

Mrs Webb unsuccessfully challenged the ruling in the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal before taking her case to the Law Lords. In November 1992, they referred the case to Europe.

In July last year, the European court said a pregnant woman could not be compared to a medically unfit man because pregnancy was not an illness. The court also pointed out that Mrs Webb had been recruited for an indefinite period. Therefore her dismissal for being unable to fulfil her contract during her own maternity leave was in breach of EU laws designed to protect pregnant women.

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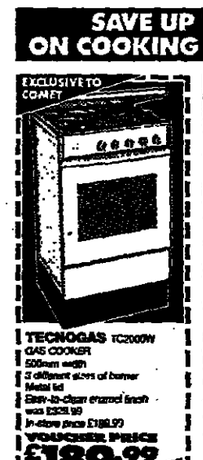


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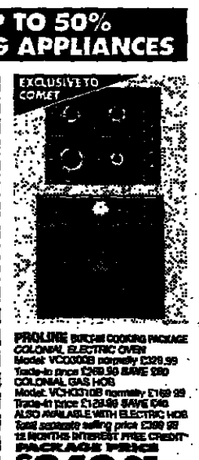


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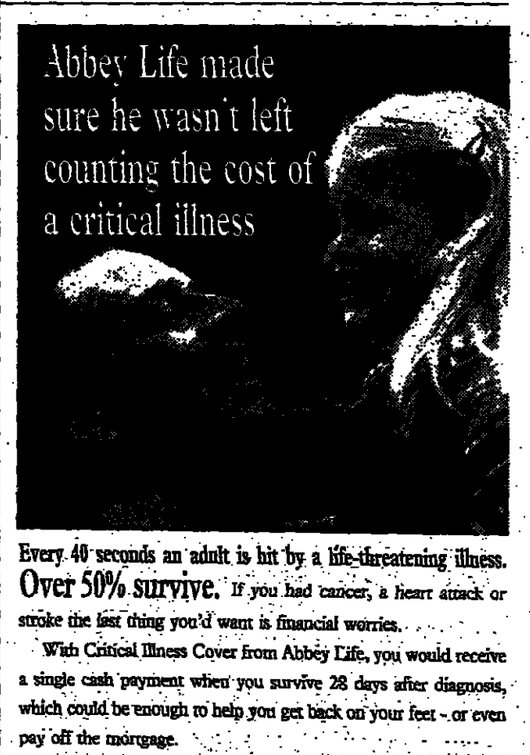
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Official Solicitor defends decision to commission book on behalf of Gloucester builder's children

Major criticises West biography deal as 'extremely distasteful'

By Richard Duce

A DEAL brokered by the Official Solicitor on behalf of the children of Frederick and Rosemary West for a biography of their father was branded as "extremely distasteful" by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, told Mr Major at Question Time in the Commons that the proceeds of any such book should go not to members of the West family but to the families of the alleged victims in the case.

Mr Major said the Official Solicitor's action was not a matter for the Government, but added : "Personally, I share your feelings about this matter."

Peter Harris, the Official Solicitor, acting on behalf of Frederick West's estate, has commissioned a "definitive" account of the Gloucester builder's life, drawing on statements he made to police and an attempt he made at an autobiography before he was found hanged in prison. Proceeds from the book, reported to be a six-figure sum, are to be shared among the Wests' younger children.

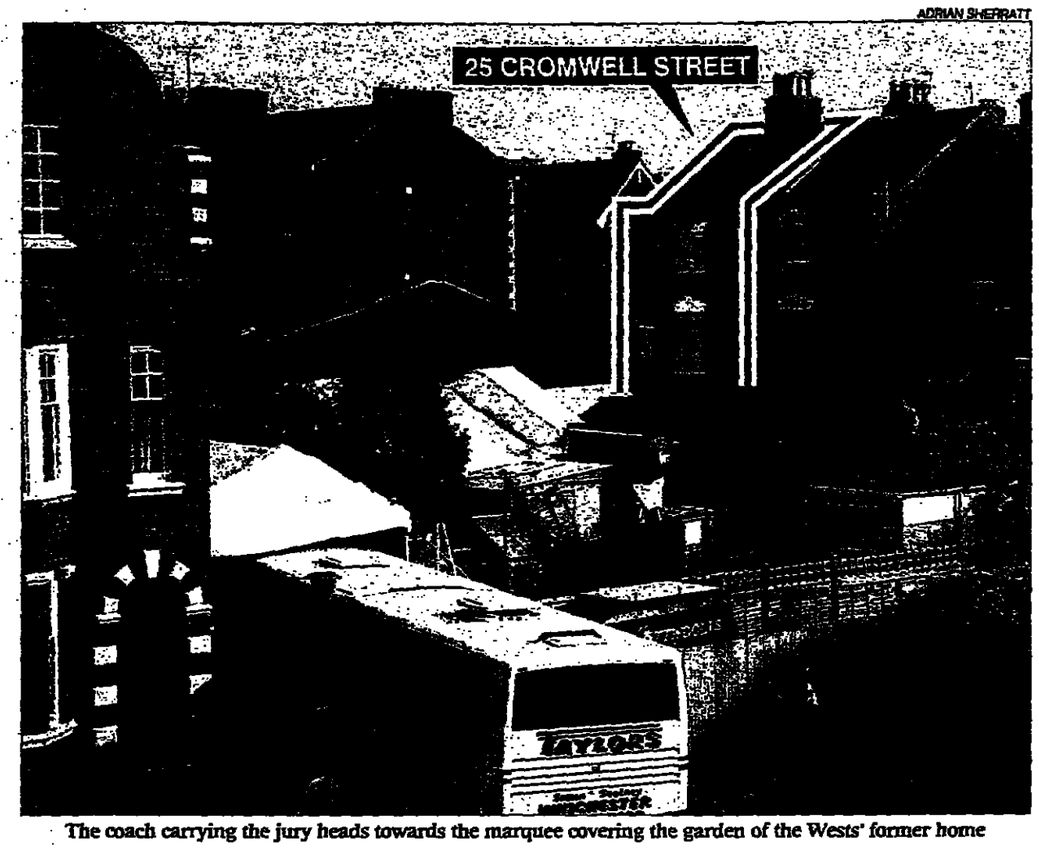
Mr French, whose constituency covers the Wests' former home at 25 Cromwell Street, said earlier that he found the deal "sick and distasteful". He accused Mr Harris of acting in a mercenary manner.

The Offical Solicitor represents the interests of children, the mentally ill and anyone else deemed incapable of defending their legal rights. He is appointed by the Lord Chancellor, but once in office is answerable only to judges, and not to the Government.

After Mr Major's comment, Mr Harris's office issued a statement to defend his role in the book deal. "He felt that, as administrator of the estate, he had an overriding duty to protect the financial interest of the five minor children. If he did not take this action he could be open to criticism or claim for financial compensation." The three adult children were already involved in their own deals with newspapers.

"As administrator, it is the Official Solicitor's duty to gather in the assets of the estate and ensure that the best value is obtained for them in the interests of the beneficiaries," his office said.

The biography, planned for next year, is to be published by Hodder Headline. Alan Brooke, the non-fiction publishing editor, said: "There will be a number of other books about West and the case, but I feel this is the only one that will tell the whole story inside the mind of this extraordinary man."



The coach carrying the jury heads towards the marquee covering the garden of the Wests' former home

Jury sees where bodies lay

By Bill Frost

WEARING hard hats and overalls, the Rosemary West trial jury toured the semi-detached house in Gloucester yesterday where the bodies of nine of her ten alleged victims were unearthed. Mrs West, who denies the charges against her, did not make the journey to 25 Cromwell Street.

The jury was shown the cellar where the remains of five young women were found. They also saw the bathroom beneath which the body of Lynda Gough was discovered, and the garden where the remains of three more bodies were found, among them those of Mrs West's daughter, Heather.

The jury spent almost 40 minutes being shown around the house in pairs. The trial had earlier ruled that the tour should be carried out in silence. Mr Justice Mantell said it was wrong that there should be discussion of the evidence unless all 12 were together. The trial continues.

Linda McCartney embarrassed by fatty burgers

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

LINDA McCARTNEY promised stricter controls yesterday on vegetarian food bearing her name after thousands of packs of burgers were found to contain twice as much fat as advertised.

Mrs McCartney said the products would be checked to make sure the error was not repeated. "I am mad about it, it really upset me and in fact I am still getting over it — and the fact that it has my name on it is just so annoying."

The burgers were taken off shop shelves by Ross Young, the Grimsby-based manufacturer, which insisted there was no risk to health.

The excess fat content was exposed by researchers on the ITV television programme *The Big Story*. Three batches of the burgers, which cost £1.49 for a pack of six, showed fat contents of between 20 per cent and 22.7 per cent, against the advertised 11.2 per cent.

Mrs McCartney said consumers had nothing to fear from the fat levels in her foods. "Number one, it is not saturated fat — which animal fat is — and number two, it still has less fat than the equivalent animal products, and number three, I never said that my products are slimming products. They are just good home-cooking."

Linda McCartney's beefless burgers are the latest addition to the 17 vegetarian products manufactured by Ross Young under her name, which have annual sales of £35 million, about a third of the £100 million market in meat-free frozen meals. Ross Young, a division of the multinational United Biscuits, began selling Mrs McCartney's porkless sausages, meatless pies and chickenless Kievs four years ago after she wrote a successful vegetarian cookery book. It was unable to say yesterday how the error was made.

It is not the first time Mrs McCartney's brands have been found wanting. In 1993 Ross Young was fined £2,250 after admitting three offences of falsely labelling goods when pies containing meat were found in boxes labelled "suitable for vegetarians".

The healthy image of ready-made vegetarian foods was questioned in a report published yesterday by the Food Commission, an independent consumer watchdog, which found that 17 of 21 popular brands of vegetarian burgers and sausages derived more than 50 per cent of their calories from fat. Sue Dibb, its co-director, said the fattiest sausages derived 82 per cent of their calories from fat and cost more per kilogram than prime steak.


McCartney: defended contents of her brands

Army's foul footballers face the glasshouse

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Army may maintain firm discipline on the parade ground, but on the football field soldiers are now indulging in the worst excesses of their civilian counterparts.

The verbal abuse and indiscipline have become so bad that hundreds of qualified army football referees are handing in their badges. Of the 600 referees affiliated to the Army Football Association, fewer than half have registered for this season.

Major Kevin Reardon, chairman of the Army Football Association referees' committee, said that, unless the new trend of abusing the referee stopped, the system of red and yellow cards might have to be replaced by punishment in the military prison at Colchester.

Speaking to the Army's magazine *Soldier*, Major Reardon said that the two principal reasons given by referees for throwing in the towel were the abuse they regularly received from players and the lack of support from their units.

He said that in the near future there would not be enough referees to cope with the number of matches. "Traditionally in football, rank on the field tends to go by the board," he said. "But if trends continue it will only be a matter of time before referees abandon red and yellow cards for the good old-fashioned glasshouse."

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ABBOT ALE
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Oral contraception remains safe, despite warnings to women about the dangers of thrombosis

Scare centres on Pill designed to be the safest of all

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

EXPERIENCE has shown that the Pill is very safe in spite of yesterday's warning to some users to switch to safer brands. But it is taken by so many millions of women that even very rare side-effects are detected. As a result, the different versions can be compared with maximum rigour.

The irony of the latest scare is that the seven brands which women are being advised to avoid were originally introduced because they were believed to be safer. The effect unearthed by statistics was unexpected and unexplained.

The first Pill was invented by Dr Gregory Pincus, of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts, and Dr John Rock, of Harvard. Clinical trials began in 1956 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the first Pill was marketed in 1960 in the United States. It became available in Britain in 1961. Along with the miniskirt and the Beatles, it became a symbol of the 1960s and the key to sexual liberation.

But within a decade, doubts crept in as the first side-effects emerged. Blood clots were found in the veins of the legs of users. The scare caused thousands of women to abandon the Pill.

Since then, the Pill has been refined in a continuous process of evolution. Research has been aimed at reducing the dose of the hormones to the minimum necessary to achieve contraception, and it has fallen by a factor of more than seven since the first Pill went on trial.

The versions involved in yesterday's alert are "combined" pills, so called because they contain two synthetic hormones, progestogen and oestrogen. The aim is to simulate the high levels of natural hormones that are reached during pregnancy, and to prevent ovulation taking place.

All combined pills do this successfully, making them reliable. A range of different progestogens have been used: the commonest are desogestrel, gestodene, levonorgestrel, ethynodiol and norethisterone. All simulate the action of the natural hormone progesterone.

Laboratory research in the 1980s found that the last three of these could cause small changes in the lipids (fats) in the blood. Lipid levels are known to be linked to the risk of heart attacks, so the implication was that Pills containing any of these three might increase the risks, especially in women with other risk factors such as smoking.

As a result, new formulations containing desogestrel and gestodene grew in favour. But the evidence from two studies, so far unpublished, has shown that these Pills in fact increase the risks of thrombosis, the formation of blood clots in the veins and arteries that can travel to the lungs or cause a stroke or heart attack. The risk is small, and it is open to argument. Manufacturers were claiming yesterday that the warnings were unjustified.

Exactly how these particular formulations cause an increased risk of thrombosis is not yet clear, but may have something to do with the way in which the two hormones in them combine.

No similar risk has been found in other types of combination Pill containing a different type of progestogen, or in progestogen-only pills. The newly identified risks must be kept in perspective. Overall, the evidence is that the Pill is very safe, as well as effective.

Women on the Pill actually have a reduced risk of some diseases, including cervical cancer and endometriosis. In addition, they are protected against the dangers of pregnancy, which are several times greater than any risk attaching to the Pill.

Safety warning, page 1

CONTRACEPTION

- Three million British women take the Pill (a quarter of all those seeking to avoid conception).
- Half of those take the brands now believed to increase risks of thrombosis: Minulet, Tri-Minulet, Femodene, Femodene (ED), Triadene, Marvalon and Mercilon.
- Apart from sterilisation or celibacy, the Pill is the most reliable form of contraception, responsible for only two to three unwanted pregnancies a year for every 100 users.
- The Pill is known to reduce the risks of some diseases, including ovarian cancer and endometriosis.
- The first Pill scare, in 1969, linked its use to blood clots in the veins of the legs.
- There are three types of Pill: progestogen-only, combined (oestrogen plus progestogen) and phased, in which proportions vary during the monthly cycle.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Connie Smith of the Family Planning Association yesterday. She appealed to women not to panic and leave themselves at risk of becoming pregnant

Clinics urge users not to panic

BY CATHERINE MILTON

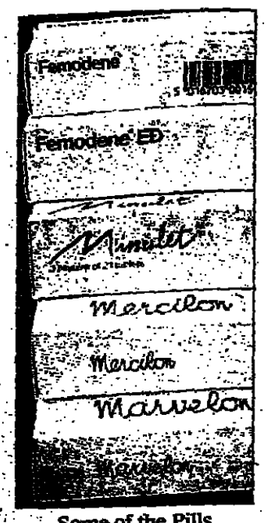
THOUSANDS of women anxious for reassurance about the Pill rang an advice line set up yesterday by one of the largest family planning clinics.

Staff at the Margaret Pyke Centre in central London said they were trying to prevent a wave of anxiety turning into a panic. They emphasised the risks of suddenly stopping the Pill and insisted that the increased risk of thrombosis from some Pills was slight.

Dr Connie Smith of the Family Planning Association appealed to women not to panic. "There are 1½ million women taking the Pills affected by the warning and we can't see them all at once. We would be extremely grateful if women carried on with their current cycle and sought medical advice. If they can't carry on their contraceptive protection is going to stop the night they take their last Pill. Unplanned pregnancies following previous Pill scares have caused a lot of problems.

"We are very concerned that women know what the risks are but we don't want to frighten anyone off. The risks of thrombosis are ten times higher in pregnancy and it's very important that women should understand that." Sister Sarah Raynor, clinical nursing specialist at the Margaret Pyke Centre, said: "There are people out there who are worried that they might die. We have had some hysterical calls from people who are very distressed."

Patients in the waiting room greeted the Government's warning with a mixture of concern and resignation. Carol Hudson, 35, who works in the leisure industry, said she had been taking Marvelon, one of the Pills associated with the increased risk, for about two years. "I knew there was a risk of thrombosis anyway, but this new scare does worry me because it means that [doctors] were not aware of the increased risk at the time it was prescribed for me."



Some of the Pills implicated yesterday

Future is looking brighter for children with cystic fibrosis

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE McKay family, who lost one of their sons in the Falklands, where he was posthumously awarded the VC, has again been hit by tragedy. Both Sergeant Ian McKay's remaining brothers have died of cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is inherited as a recessive trait, which means that both the parents of the McKay boys must have been carrying the gene. The gene is present in about 5 per cent of the population, and genetic screening will detect about 75 per cent of these carriers. Cystic fibrosis is five times more common in white rather than black races, and there is a suggestion that the Celts are particular at risk, as possibly in the McKay case. It is the most common potentially lethal hereditary disease that affects Caucasians.

The essential feature of cystic fibrosis is an increased stickiness of mucus secretions. Nearly all the exocrine glands are involved, and damage to other organs, particularly the lungs, follows once ducts and airways become blocked.

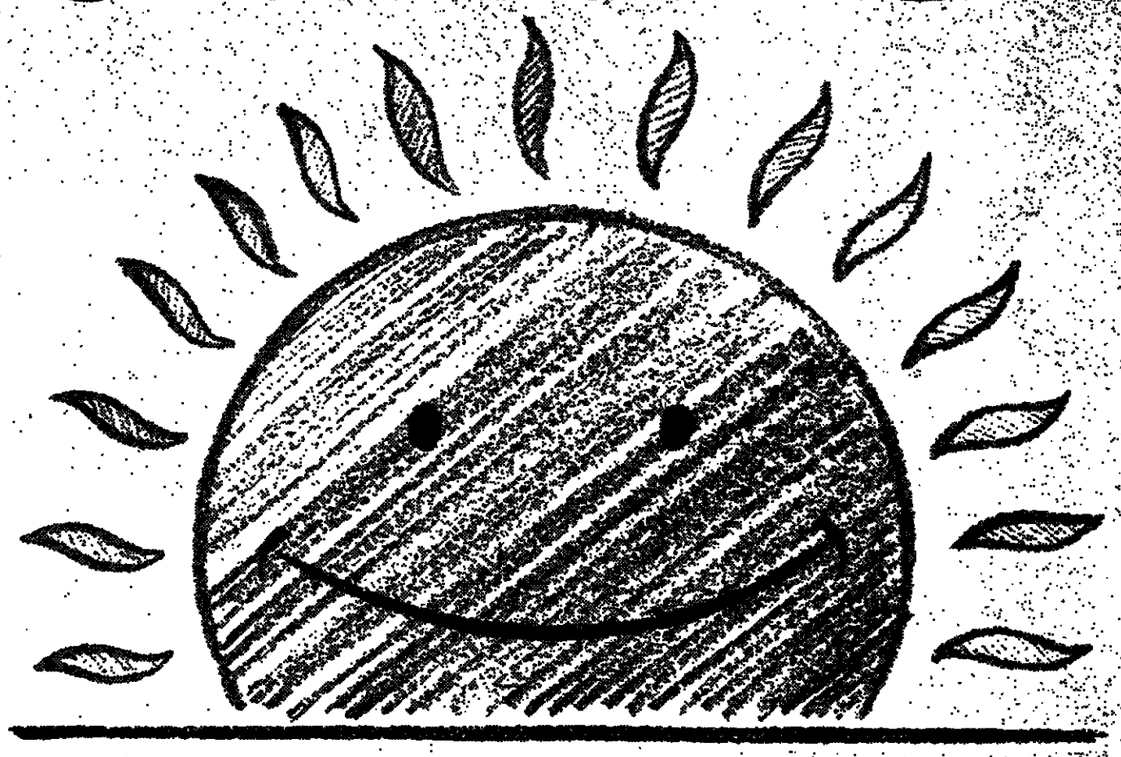
Children who later develop chronic lung disease are in fact born with healthy lungs, but chest infections are such a noticeable feature of their early life that a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis is often made early in infancy because of chronic cough and pneumonia. Cystic fibrosis is now the most common cause of recurring pneumonia in young children, and any child who suffers that way is usually tested to exclude the disease.

In later life, men with cystic fibrosis are frequently infertile because of obstruction to the vas deferens, which achieves the same effect that a vasectomy would have done in adult life; women's fertility too may be affected by abnormally sticky cervical secretions.

The future for children with cystic fibrosis is constantly improving. The introduction of antibiotics revolutionised the outlook: before they were available, patients tended to die in early childhood. Now 90 per cent of children reach adulthood and most survive into their late 20s; many live well beyond this into early middle age. Appropriate enzyme supplements, as well as treating secondary lung disease, will help pancreatic insufficiency and research continues into ways of making the mucus secretions less sticky.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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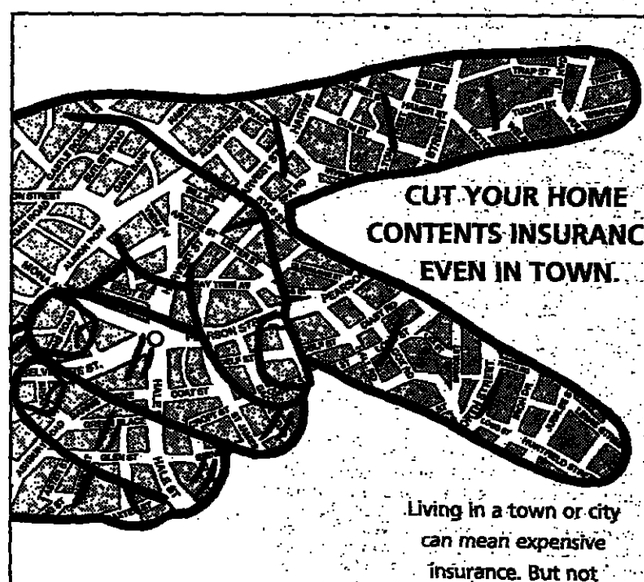
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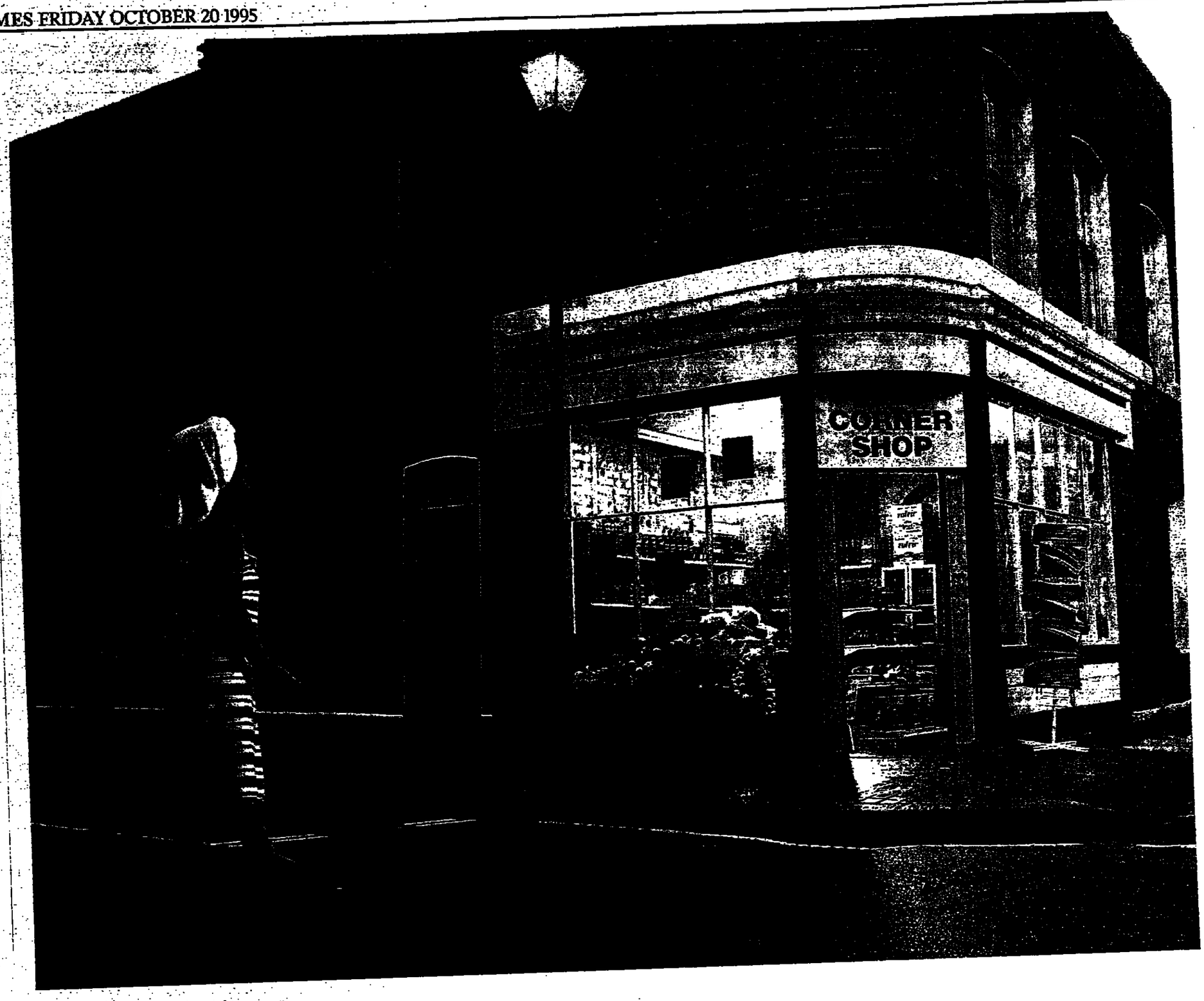
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Immigration pleas become harder to win

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

IT IS becoming harder for immigrants to gain entry to Britain, according to Home Office figures published yesterday.

The number of asylum applications rose by nearly 50 per cent in the year to the end of June, to almost 38,000. However, 19,300 applications were refused, compared with 11,800 in the previous year, a rise of almost 64 per cent. Almost 70 per cent of the applications were made by people who had already been allowed to enter the country or had arrived illegally.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is preparing an Asylum and Immigration Bill designed to further curb the numbers. The Government has already unveiled curbs on benefits available to asylum seekers. Other measures being considered include removing the right to an oral hearing for those found to have no foundation to their application: increasing the countries to which visa applications apply; and publishing a list of safe countries to which applicants could be returned.

Asylum applications, excluding dependants, rose from 4,266 in 1986 to a record 44,800 in 1991, but dropped in 1992 after measures to curb multiple and fraudulent applications were introduced. Applications are now rising again and there is concern that, once one member of a family has failed in their application, another member can apply and thus prevent an attempt to remove them from Britain.

More than 50 per cent of asylum applications in the year to June 30, 1995, were made by people from Africa, 30 per cent from Asia and almost 20 per cent from Europe. Out of 25,100 decisions on applications, only 1,100 (4 per cent) were granted refugee status but 4,700 were given exceptional leave to remain here and 19,300 were refused asylum.

The number of applications allowed rose from 700, which the report says is due partly to the number of Iraqis seeking sanctuary.

The number of illegal entrants found and the number of people issued with a notice of intention to deport or recommended for deportation was 14,700 compared with 11,300 in the previous year. Almost 9,000 people who had entered the country illegally were caught, compared with 6,400 in the previous year.

The overall number accepted for settlement was 54,800, a similar figure to other years. Twenty-six per cent were from the Indian sub-continent; 22 per cent from Africa; 21 per cent from the rest of Asia; 15 per cent from North and South America; 7 per cent from Europe and 6 per cent from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands.

Nicholas Baker, page 20



Marco Polo in the court of the Great Khan: yet he missed the Great Wall and tea

Hole in the Polo legend: did he ever go to China?

BY ALAN HAMILTON

MARCO POLO, the all-time master of the travel-writing genre, never went anywhere near China, and made up the famous accounts of journeys around the Far East.

This thesis, to be published in an authoritative book next month, is likely to rock the foundations of a basic tenet of European civilisation: that the Venetian traveller who claimed to have spent 17 years among the Mongols introduced spaghetti to China, and brought to Italy the priceless gifts of noodles and ice-cream.

Dr Frances Wood, head of the Chinese department at the British Library, first aired her doubts in an article in *The Times* in 1981; curiously, no one took the slightest notice. Now she has expanded her scepticism into a full-scale study of the text of Polo's *Description Of The World*, an instant bestseller when it appeared in 1298 and a perennial favourite ever since. Columbus sailed for the Indies with a copy of Polo's book in his cabin, although he never had the chance to test it.

Dr Wood, who spent two years in Peking, accepts that the prologue is credible, with Polo travelling with his father and uncle, both Venetian experts, as far as Constantinople and the Near East. She believes the rest is based on hearsay, previously published sources and other secondhand information.

She finds it unacceptable that Polo should claim to have spent such a time in China yet make no mention of the Great Wall, tea, porcelain, Chinese pictograms or women with bound feet. "Marco's participation, and the whole second trip, seems unlikely, even allowing for exaggeration," Dr Wood says.

The great travelogue was ghost-written by Rustichello, a popular romantic writer, who shared a prison cell with Marco when the Genoese made one of their occasional raids on Venice. Rusticello, it is said, was much taken with the travellers' tales which Polo spun to pass the time behind bars, and saw a commercial opportunity.

Dr Wood has the backing of several German experts on medieval Mongolia, although British academics have been unwilling to join the debate until they read the book. Peter Hopkirk, author of *Travellers on the Silk Road to China* and an authority on central Asian history, said: "People dislike having their heroes demolished, but Dr Wood is a formidable scholar."

He pointed out a further argument: the absence of any reference in Chinese annals of the period to visits by a European.

☐ *Did Marco Polo Go To China?* by Frances Wood, is published by Secker & Warburg on November 13 at £14.99.

Leading article, page 21

Woods are saved from quarrying

A 12-year battle to save Carmell Woods, near Llandeilo, Dyfed, ended in victory for conservationists yesterday when Wimpey Minerals abandoned its plan to quarry the beauty spot. Wimpey agreed to confine work to its existing quarry and to forgo rights to other parts of the woods, a grade I site of special scientific interest which is home to rare plant species and the endangered Greater Horseshoe bat.

Boxer buried

Jim Murray, the boxer who died on Sunday after collapsing during a title fight in Glasgow, was buried at his home town of Newmains, Strathclyde. Among more than 1,000 mourners was Drew Docherty, Murray's opponent in the fight.

UDA chief dies

Tommy "Tucker" Lyttle, 56, former leader of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association in West Belfast, has died. He was jailed for seven years in 1990. On his release old associates shunned him and he moved to Co Down, where he fell ill on Wednesday night.

Motorway delay

Commuters face long delays on the M4 for the next five months because of surface repairs between junctions six and nine eastbound. Traffic between Reading and Slough was at a standstill for 12 miles yesterday as contractors started work.

Falklands first

The ice patrol vessel *HMS Endurance* will become the first Royal Navy ship to visit Argentina since the Falklands War when she visits Buenos Aires next month. Her commanding officer, Captain Barry Bryant, 45, fought in the 1982 conflict.

Cat dancing

Rosemarie Ford, who hosts *Come Dancing* on BBC television, is to play the lead role in the West End production of *Cats*. She takes over as Grizabella from Clare Burt in the long-running Andrew Lloyd Webber show at the end of the month.

Over-charged biscuit lover gets even on recipe-hungry Internet

BY TIM JONES

A SHOPPER has extracted worldwide electronic revenge against an American store that charged her £160 for the recipe to one of its biscuits.

After enjoying a biscuit at the restaurant in the Dallas branch of Neiman Marcus, the woman, who has not been identified, persuaded an assistant to disclose how it was made. She thought she was getting the secret for $2.50, but her credit card account showed a $250 charge. She queried the amount with the store, but it refused to budge.

Now the woman has made the recipe available to millions by putting it on the Internet. "Boy, was I upset," she said, via the Internet. "I called Neiman's accounting department ... and asked them to take back the recipe and reduce my bill and they said they were sorry but all recipes were this expensive so not everyone could just duplicate any bakery recipes.

"I told the woman on the phone I was going to see to it that every cookie-lover would have a $250 recipe from Neiman-Marcus for nothing. She said she wished I wouldn't, but I said it was the only way I could get even. I paid for it, now you can have it for free."

The recipe's secret ingredient is grated Hershey chocolate bar.

Organic produce is October bargain

ORGANICALLY grown fruit and vegetables, which generally cost 40 per cent more than normal produce, are coming down in price this month.

Special offers include organic potatoes at £1.69 for 2.5 kg and organic carrots at 65p for 500g, while organic mangoes cost 69p each at Sainsbury. At Waitrose organic mushrooms are 79p for 200g and organic onions are 69p for 500g. Advertised best buys this weekend include:

Asda: White potatoes £1.69 for 5kg, four Asda chicken Kievs £2.99 for 567g, white finger rolls 16 for 79p.

Budgens: McCain oven chips 99p for 907g, Kool profiterole dessert 39p for 65g.

Co-Op: Buitoni pasta shapes 59p for 500g, Kenco rich dark roast-freeze dried coffee £3.99 for 200g; Bird's Eye potato fritters 79p for 340g.

Harrods: Blu D'Auvergne cheese £9.95 for 1kg, gnocchi with spinach and mushroom £1.70 per 100g.

Iceland: Strawberry and vanilla ice cream gateau 99p, mediterranean bake £1.29 for 300g.

Marks & Spencer: Family-size lasagne £3.29, crumpets 35p for eight.

Morrison: Large chicken and mushroom pies £1.29 each, orange juice £1.49 for one litre.

Safeway: Wafer-thin honey roast ham 59p for ¼ lb, chicken korma with basmati rice 99p for 350g.

Sainsbury: salmon and broccoli flan £1.45 for 400g, raspberry pavlova £1.79 for 370g, frozen New Zealand lamb leg 99p per lb.

Somerfield: Large pineapples 89p each, fresh smoked haddock fillet £3.72 per kg, Mullerice 27p for 200g.

Tesco: Fresh sirloin steak £10.14 per kg, leeks 79p per lb, Tesco free-range eggs (size two) £1.45 for twelve.

Waitrose: Breaded chilled scampi £1.99 for 170g, ready-to-cook lamb casserole £3.99 for 850g.

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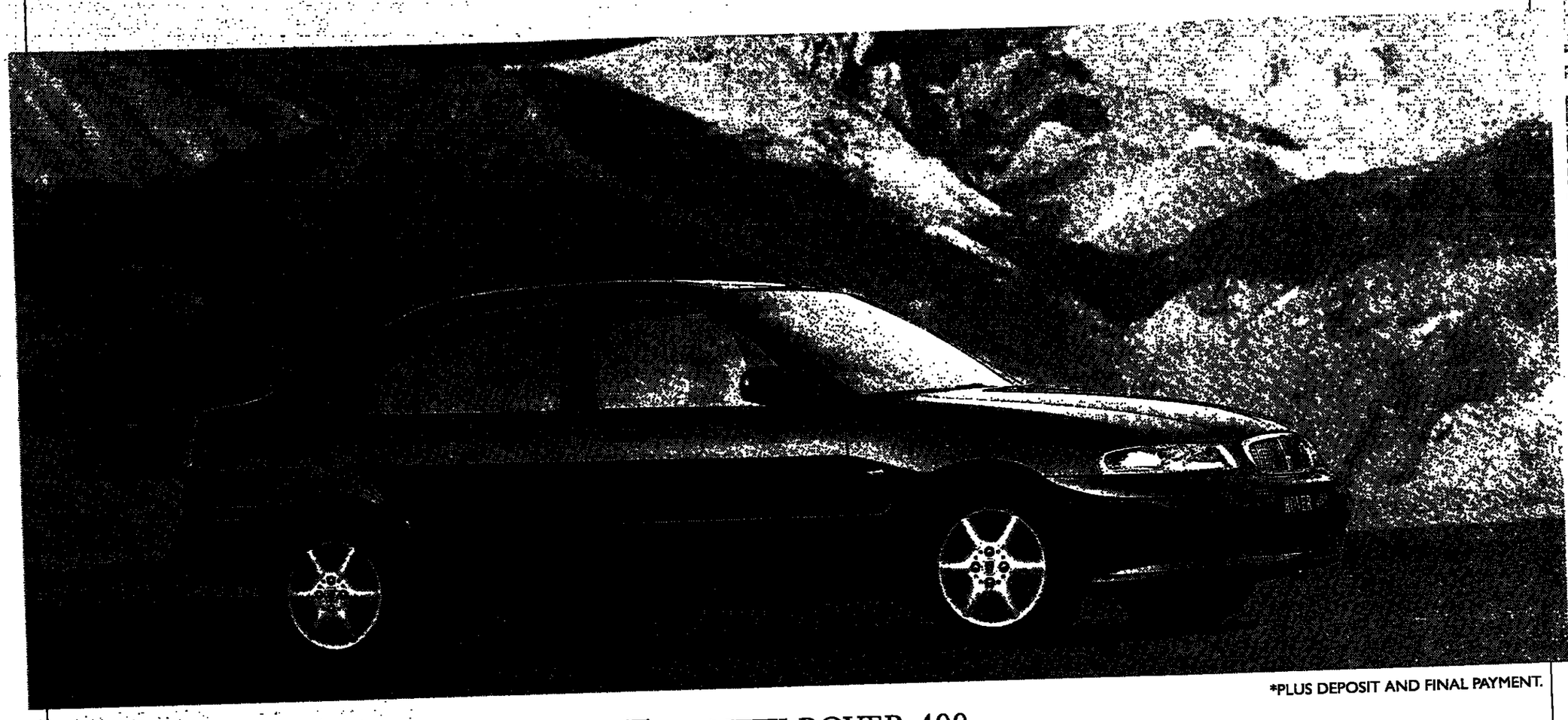
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Consumer safety staff 'to be halved'

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

STAFF cuts at the Consumer Safety Unit could lead on to an increase in the number of deaths and injuries caused by unsafe products, Labour said yesterday.

Leaked documents from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) show plans to halve the unit's staff to about 15. Their work includes checking baby furniture, electrical goods and fireworks.

Specialist work will be farmed out to other parts of the DTI that lack specific consumer safety expertise, according to Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister. He said: "This is a sinister attempt to denote consumer protection." The *Consumers' Association* is also worried about the future of the unit.

The DTI said staff were being consulted on how work was organised and there would be no reduction in the overall staff effort on consumer safety.

Shadow Cabinet elections bring major shake-up

Blair stamps his authority on Labour's front bench

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR began a ruthless shake-up of his frontbench team last night by sacking seven shadow ministers to make way for high-flyers from the whips' office and the Labour back benches.

Mr Blair is determined to redress the balance of Wednesday night's Shadow Cabinet elections, which resulted in surprisingly high votes for "old Labour" MPs and poor votes for the party modernisers.

Those MPs the Labour leader had been most keen to promote, such as Brian Wilson, Alistair Darling and Nick Brown, failed to get onto the Shadow Cabinet while Harriet Harman's vote fell sharply and Jack Cunningham lost his place.

Mr Blair put the best gloss on the elections by promoting his allies and demoting more traditionalist MPs in yesterday's reshuffle. Chris Smith, Harriet Harman and Clare Short all gained top jobs while Michael Meacher, who has embarrassed the leadership over his handling of rail privatisation, was demoted.

In an effort to stamp his authority on the front bench, Mr Blair dismissed seven MPs and was said last night to be planning to sack at least three more evening in what was already being described as "the night of the long knives". He was forced to make more Shadow Cabinet changes than he expected after Dr Cunningham's surprise exit and the re-election of Tom Clarke, who lost his seat last year.

This gave him the opportunity to promote Clare Short, newly elected to the Shadow Cabinet to become the first woman to take over the transport portfolio since Barbara Castle in 1965..

Ms Short replaces Michael Meacher, who has been demoted to work as Shadow Employment Minister under David Blunkett, who has the newly merged education and employment portfolio.

Although Mr Meacher, who was said to have firmly resisted the move, still has a Shadow Cabinet place, it is clear that Mr Blunkett will take the lead in shadowing Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary. Leadership sources last night tried to play down any snub by insisting that despite the merger, employment remained a key issue for Labour.

Ian McCartney, as Mr Meacher's deputy will take responsibility for the minimum wage and the social chapter.

Donald Dewar was confirmed as Chief Whip, a job which Mr Blair considers one of the most important in his Shadow Cabinet, while Margaret Beckett moves from health to take over from Jack Cunningham at Trade and Industry.

As expected Chris Smith is promoted from national heritage to social security, while Harriet Harman takes over from Mrs Beckett at health.

Most of the key posts remain unchanged but Mr Blair has moved two portfolios out of the Shadow Cabinet and created a new one. Jack Cunningham takes on the national heritage job, Derek Foster, who stood down as Chief Whip earlier this year becomes Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to shadow Roger Freeman, and Andrew Smith retains his present post as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Clarke, who retains his responsibility for disabled people's rights, is a leftwinger who benefited from fierce vote-trading by MPs of the Campaign Group. He was said to have demanded a better job from Mr Blair, but after an acrimonious meeting was turned down.

Over the next few days Mr Blair will complete his full frontbench reshuffle. Peter Mandelson, Geoff Hoon, Barbara Roche, Stephen Byers and Estelle Morris, who entered the whips' office last October, are all tipped for promotion to departmental jobs.

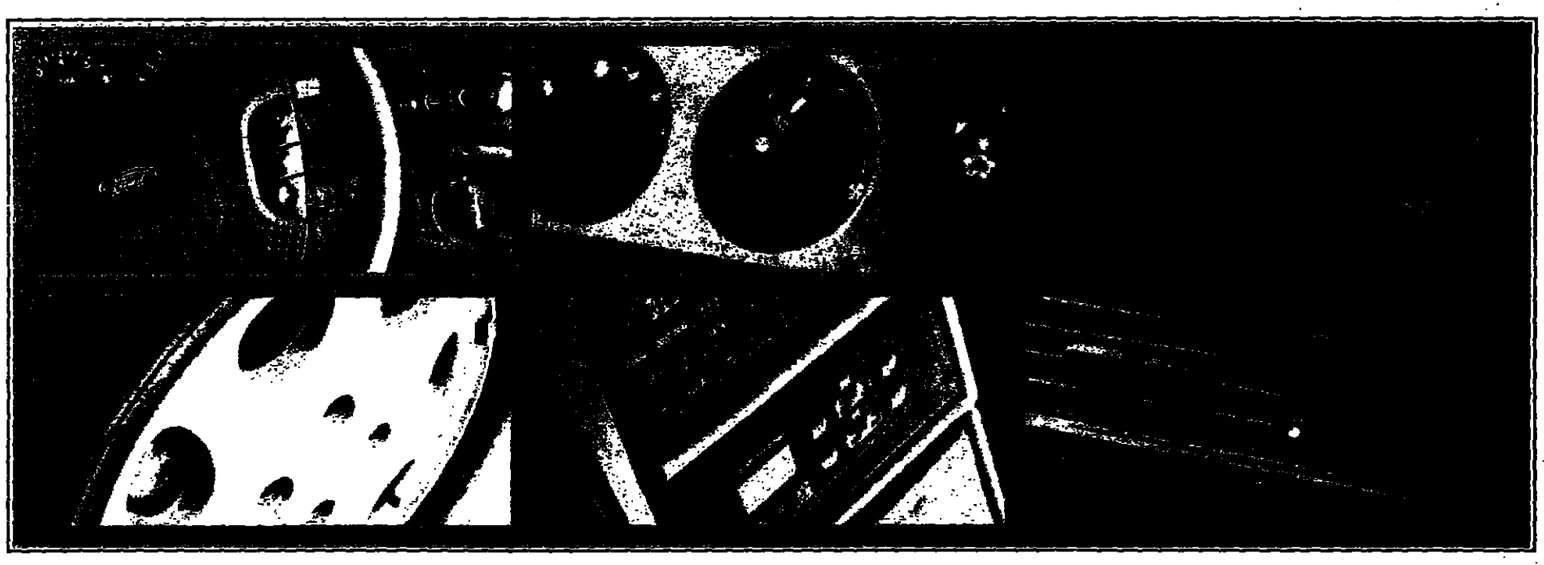
Leading article, page 21



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Transport duo set for safe-seat battle

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Transport Secretary and his Minister of State are to fight each other in the selection battle for a new and safe Tory seat.

John Watts has taken the unprecedented step of challenging his boss at the Transport Department, Sir George Young, for the right to stand at the next general election for Maidenhead in Berkshire.

Mr Watts, MP for Slough since 1983, decided to apply for the new seat two weeks ago, several months after senior members of the local party invited him to do so. Sir George, whose Ealing Acton seat disappears under the boundary changes, applied in the summer.

Mr Watts's majority of 514 at Slough is made even more precarious by the boundary changes and is likely to be overturned by Labour.

In an interview with the *Slough and Langley Observer*, Mr Watts said he did not want to leave Slough and had not ruled out standing there. However, he recognised that the seat "has always been and always will be" a marginal seat. He added: "Changes in the constituency boundaries do not make it any easier."

Mr Watts denies deserting his constituents. "I have a lot of friends in Slough in all parties and all parts of the community but it is not as if I am upping sticks and going to another part of the country."

Although more than 200 people have applied for the seat, local Tories have whittled down the number and are now interviewing possible candidates, said also to include the former Chancellor Norman Lamont. The seat was formed when Windsor and Maidenhead was split in two by the Boundary Commission. Michael Trend, the sitting MP, has been selected for Windsor.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister. Statements on Commons business and the European Court of Justice ruling on prescription charges. Labour-initiated debate on the Prison Service followed by a debate on the 25th anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. In the Lords: debate on Town and Country Planning (Cost of Inquiries) Bill and Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: debate on science and technology. The House of Lords is not sitting.

Right-wing ex-minister to stand for 1922 job

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

BOB DUNN, the right-wing Tory MP for Dartford, is to challenge Sir Marcus Fox for the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee in next month's annual poll of the party's backbenchers.

The former Education Minister will base his campaign on the need for a stronger backbench voice in the party's inner sanctums. He is expected to announce his candidature on Monday.

About half the 18-strong 1922 executive, including most of the office holders, are not standing at the next election. Sir Marcus, 68, MP for Shipley, has not declared his intentions but there is speculation that he plans to retire.

Mr Dunn's friends said yesterday that as an experienced member of the executive he was well placed to ensure a smooth transition from the present executive to the one that will be elected in the new Parliament. Tory MPs would be ill-served if the six office holders had little or no experience of dealing with ministers and Government whips.

They added that Mr Dunn would prove a better champion of the rank and file in such horsetrading and would not hesitate to confront high-handed ministers.

Mr Dunn, 49, is said to believe that the party establishment needs to be more responsive to backbench opinion, and that Labour is most vulnerable to a populist tax-cutting agenda with scepticism on Europe and a tough approach to law and order. He is likely to win support from younger MPs frustrated by the old guard's reluctance to criticise ministers.

Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited

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Notice of the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of Shareholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited will be held at Suite 4000, 1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal, Quebec Canada H3B 4M4 on Tuesday the 28th day of November 1995 at 11.30a.m. for the following purposes:

1. to receive and consider the report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and its subsidiaries for the year ended June 30, 1995 together with the report of the Auditors thereon;
2. to elect Directors;
3. to appoint Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration;
4. to amend the Articles of the Corporation as described in the Management Proxy Circular; and
5. to transact such other business as may be transacted at an Annual Meeting.

Shareholders who are unable to attend the foregoing Meeting are requested to complete and return their form of proxy to the address stated thereon at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the said Meeting.

Declaration of Dividend

The Directors have declared the following dividend payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on November 17 1995.

Common Shares –
Dividend No 37

65 Canadian cents per share for the year to June 30, 1995. (The comparative figure for 1994 is 62 Canadian cents).

The payment date for the dividend is December 8 1995. The dividend will be paid in the customary currencies, related to the registered address of a Shareholder, in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.

October 20, 1995
By Order of the Board
M.C. JOHNSTON, Q.C.
Director and Secretary

Home Secretary mounts vigorous defence and denounces 'cheap and tawdry' politics

Howard accuses Blair of demeaning his office

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD accused Labour of "a cheap and tawdry attempt to make petty party political capital out of the difficulties of the Prison Service" yesterday as he defended himself against criticism over the sacking of the service's Director-General.

After reading the "devastating" Learmont report, it was impossible for him to overlook the serious charges contained in it. He had to agree, he said, that a change of leadership was required at the top to address what General Learmont described as shortcomings in leadership operations and security.

Mr Howard went on to tell Tony Blair, the Labour leader, that he had "demeaned his office by allowing it to be used as a vehicle for the spleen of a bitter man". After his speech he sat down to a five-minute ovation — from Tory backbenchers.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, opened the emergency debate censuring Mr Howard's actions and accused the Home Secretary of "following a constitutional fiction" in trying to separate responsibility for policy from operational matters. "Virtually everyone associated with the Prison Service has palpably lost confidence in you. Is it any wonder that the service is in crisis. It has no effective leadership," he said.

"The Secretary of State provides none. Indeed he doesn't even pretend to provide any because he says he is not responsible for the operation of the service."

As Mr Howard's wife, Sandra, and John Marriott, the sacked former governor of Parkhurst prison looked on nervously from the gallery, Mr Straw told MPs that the difference between operational and policy responsibility, meant, "in the damning words of the Chief Inspector of Prisons . . . that the Home Secretary is not responsible for anything at all. That means the Home Secretary takes the credit but is free of any responsibility."

Tory backbenchers continually intervened to back up the Home Secretary and heckle Mr Straw. Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP for Colchester North, asked Mr Straw whether he would have dismissed the Director-General, Derek Lewis, or not. Mr Straw said that was not an issue for the House. "The issue before the House is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for running the prison service," he said. Mr Straw said Sir John Learmont's report into the Parkhurst escapes was "replete with criticism of political involvement in the operation of the service. It prescribes a recipe for total confusion for which this Secretary of State is responsible."

Iain Duncan-Smith, (Con, Chingford) said that the Learmont report branded Mr Lewis as "arrogant and incompetent" and he asked Mr Straw if he agreed with this assesment. Mr Straw replied: "The arrogance and incompetence is the Secretary of State's . . . What you have continually sought to do is to evade your responsibility for the proper running of the Prison Service."

> "All the decisions were madeby the Director-General"

Mr Straw went on to give details of the minutes of the meeting on January 10 in which Mr Lewis and Mr Howard discussed what action to take over the future of Mr Merriott. "What these minutes show, for all the bluster of the members opposite, is that the Secretary of State raised the issue of suspension. They are entirely consistent with Mr Lewis's allegations."

Mr Howard intervened to say that the allegations were entirely without substance. "I want to make it very clear that I now specifically accuse the Right Honourable Gentleman of misleading the House this afternoon."

Mr Straw said that Mr Howard, in one answer after another, had denied that he sought to intervene in two operational decisions made by Derek Lewis. "These minutes show beyond any question that the Secretary of State did indeed raise this matter and told Mr Lewis that he wanted Mr Marriott suspended and not transfered."

He challenged Mr Howard: "Did he or did he not seek to change Mr Lewis's mind? He added that the minutes corroborated Mr Lewis's account of the meeting. "We believe that he did indeed raise the issue of suspension and told the Director-General that. The Secretary of State has got to explain why that is not the case."

Mr Straw said that the affair centred on more than just the employment of one individual. "It goes to the heart of whether this country should be governed by ministers who are ready to tell the truth, and the whole truth, of the conduct of their high office, whether they are properly to hold themselves responsible for the decision in which they are involved."

Mr Howard was asked by John Reid (Lab Motherwell) who asked whether he had insisted that Mr Marriott be removed on January 10. Mr Howard replied: "No I didn't. The answer is no because all the decisions that were made that day were made by the Director-General."

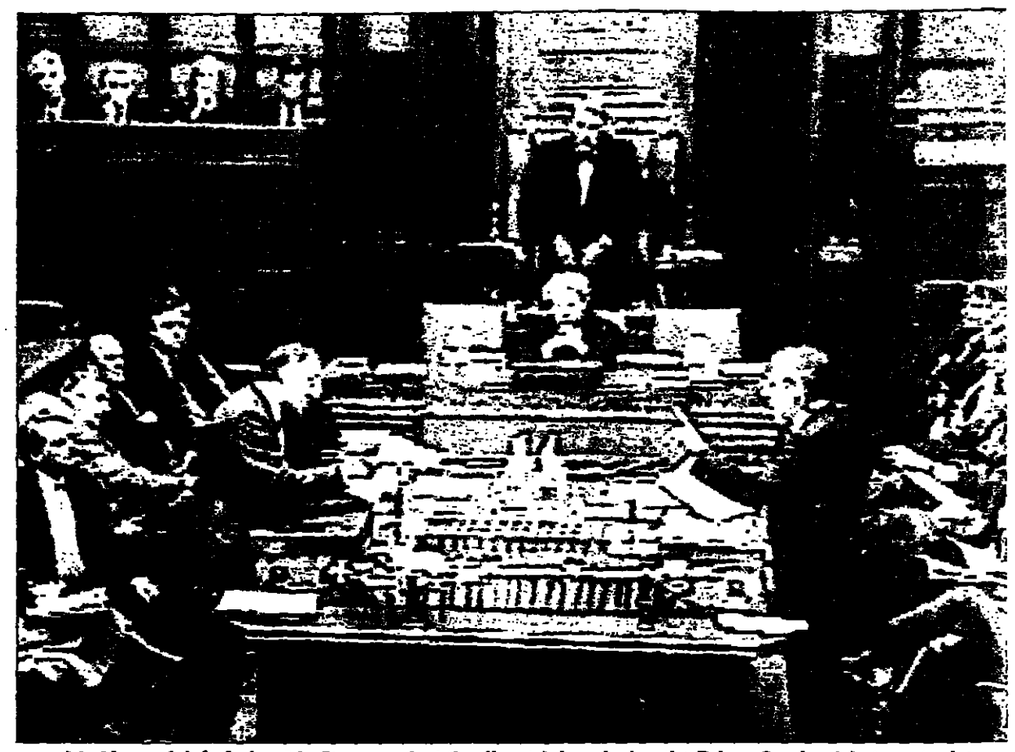
The Home Secretary said the official note of the meeting on January 10 recorded that he had considered there were serious charges against Mr Marriott and that he agreed with Mr Lewis's analysis that Mr Marriott could not stay as Parkhurst governor.

To Tory cheers, Mr Howard insisted: "I was entitled to be consulted by Mr Lewis abo this important matter, and was. I was entitled to discu the action which it was pr posed to take, and I did. I w not entitled to give instru tions — I did not. It was t Director-General who decid that the governor should moved — he was."

After repeated taunts fro the Tory benches, Mr Bl rose to the dispatch box a asked: "Is it true or is it n that the suggestion that he removed that day came r from the Director-Gener but from the Home Secretar Why don't you allow the who received the instructic Miss Philippa Drew and M Marriott, to give evidence as what they were told by t Home Office and allow the civil servants at the meeting January 10 also to gi evidence?"

Mr Howard replied: "Th intervention by the Leader the Opposition casts the m serious questions on his ju ment." He said he had alrea answered Mr Blair's alleg tions in the course of t debate. As Tory MPs cont ued cheering, one shouted o "It's a massacre!"

Leading article, page



Mr Howard, left, facing Mr Straw against the dispatch box during the Prison Service debate yesterday

Fluent advocate savours his parliamentary triumph

MIDDLE POLITICS

Michael Howard was always likely to survive yesterday's Commons debate on prison security because he has retained the support of Tory MPs. In the event, he enjoyed a parliamentary triumph, at least in the eyes of his own supporters. The political side of the Derek Lewis affair should now be over, though there are many legal loose ends. Questions remain about the relations between ministers and civil servants and the heads of executive agencies.

Yesterday's debate was at two levels: the theatrical, which the Home Secretary won comfortably, and the substantive, where the issue was more evenly balanced. Mr Howard displayed all his powers as a fluent advocate, and was aided by the Tories' saloon-bar tendency, who were at their boorish worst. They successfully disrupted Jack Straw, who was never able to make his charge sheet amount to a damning indictment. It sounded more like a series of minor objections open to the type of specious tit-for-tat exchanges which MPs enjoy and which so appal the public.

Many Tory MPs in the chamber yesterday anyway did not appear interested in the merits of the argument and were merely concerned to barrack Mr Straw. Most Tories have never believed that Mr Howard did anything wrong. For them, the distinction between policy and operations is beside the point. In their view, if Mr Howard held lengthy discussions with Mr Lewis about Parkhurst, he was right to find out what had happened in view of the evident security problems there. Mr Howard was persuasive on that.

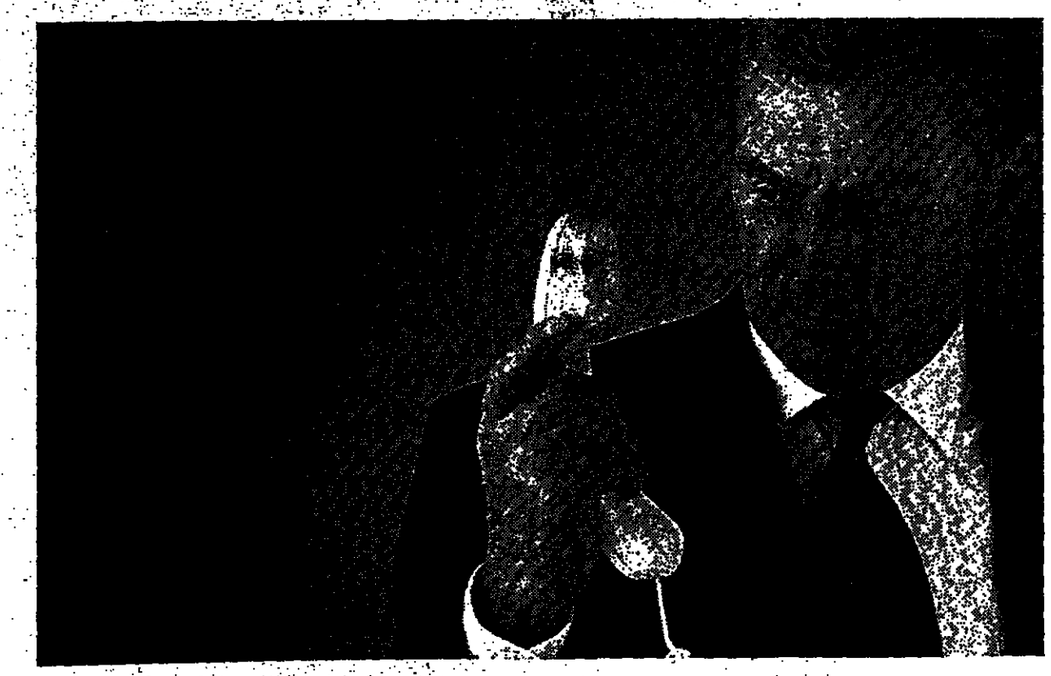
But the Home Secretary never really answered Mr Straw's charge that he wanted the Governor of Parkhurst suspended immediately in January and made his views clear to Mr Lewis. At the very least, the line between ministerial responsibility for policy decisions and Mr Lewis's for operational matters was blurred. Yet Mr Straw was never able to make these points — or the broader accusation of continuing ministerial interference in the affairs of prisons — stick in face of the Tory barrage. At the end of the day, Labour — and to judge by his face Tony Blair — felt frustrated and embarassed by the failure of their assault, while the Tories were gleeful.

The affair has, however, exposed holes in the formal doctrine that, while ministers are both accountable and responsible to Parliament for all policy decisions, they are only accountable for the running of the prison service, with day-to-day responsibility lying with the Prison Board. It is now apparent that it is not as simple as this in practice, and probably cannot be with such a sensitive subject as prison security. Ministers will always be pressed to say something, and hence to demand action from the Prison Board, when there is a highly publicised breakout.

These ambiguities need to be address explicitly rather than fudged over in the classic British way. The Treasury and Civil Service committee has argued that relations between ministers and the chief executives need to be made more transparent and clearcut. Paddy Ashdown has, for instance, urged that chief executives should be made directly accountable to Parliament for service delivery. This means, he suggests, amending what are known as the "Osmotherley" rules to allow chief executives to appear on their own behalf to answer questions before MPs and committees rather than just as spokesmen for ministers.

The current situation is inherently unstable with the agencies remaining in central government but semi-independent in their operations. It would be better, as Sir Peter Kemp, Graham Mather and others have argued, to put the chief executives on a proper contractual basis as an addition to the framework documents between the agencies and their sponsoring departments. All this is a long way from the demeaning yahoo politics of yesterday's debate. But it is as much part of Parliament's responsibilities as last night's vote.

PETER RIDDELL



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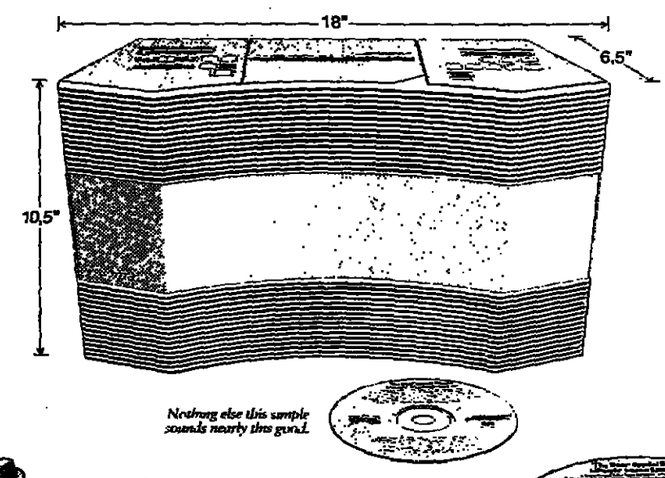
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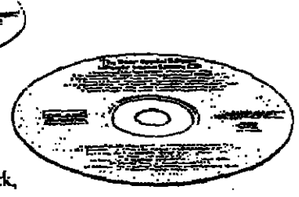


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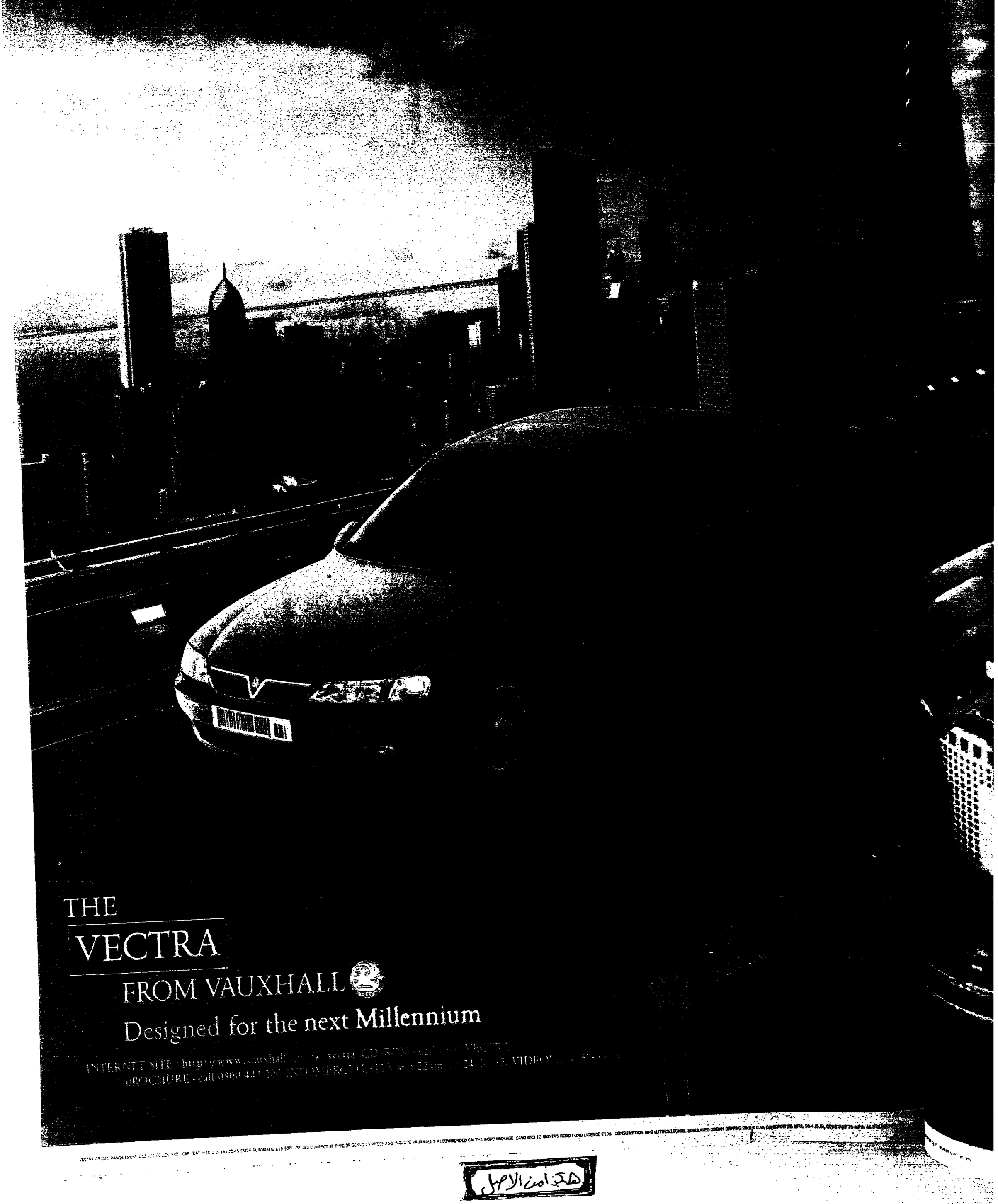
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Veto pledge to Britain as Commission chief underlines need for closer union to ensure peace

Santer rejects Euro-gloom


JULIAN HERBERT

Jacques Santer, who says jobs must be created to win over the young people of Europe



Charles Bremner in Brussels finds the Commission President predicting a consensus that will keep Britain at the heart of Europe

ACCORDING to Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, Britain should make the most of a role at the heart of the European Union. And, he said, there was no need to tilt at windmills over sovereignty, as Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, did in his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last week when he vowed that no Briton should have to die for a "Brussels army".

In an interview with *The Times* that ranged over the state of the EU, Mr Santer agreed with his friend Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who said this week that peace was not certain in Europe without further moves towards union. "An uncertain situation has been created ... Our generation and the later one have to channel their efforts to ensure a durable peace," he said.

He sketched a view of union well short of that in the federalist thinking in some of the Continent's capitals, however. In spite of the tough words coming from John Major's Government, Mr Santer predicted that Britain would agree to a compromise on the sensitive issue of a common foreign and defence policy at next year's review of the Maastricht treaty.

He predicted that the new Union treaty would be ready in 1997, at about the time of the next British general election or shortly afterwards.

Contrary to fears in London, he said, Britain would not be asked to give up its veto in the domain of foreign and security policy, a big sticking point for London and Paris in the run-up to the Union revamp. "There are certain areas where unanimity is required. You cannot force a member state to commit itself politically or militarily against its will or national interest," he said. "On the other hand, you cannot allow a member country to prevent others from undertaking a role outside the Union."

His thinking referred to mechanisms now being sketched in Paris and Bonn for retaining sovereignty in the foreign and security field while unblocking the paralysis that has afflicted the Union since Maastricht.

On defence, he said, the Maastricht review would look at ways of linking Nato and the Western European Union, the Continent's defence body, with the EU. While France is keen on the eventual creation of forces under all-European command — the spectre raised by Mr Portillo — Germany, Mr Santer and others emphasise the need for Nato to continue as a central component of a future European defence.

Mr Santer expressed regret over the Euro-sceptic shift in London announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and given colour by Mr Portillo. The new British rhetoric has heightened anxiety among officials already alarmed by Germany's tough new line on monetary union. "I am quite close politically to the Conservative Party, so I have a lot of friends there. I note that those friends are very disappointed," he said.

If Mr Rifkind's new doctrine on asserting British interests at the expense, if necessary, of losing Euro-influence "means following the line of Winston Churchill, then there is no problem for us," he said. "It is a question of identifying the British interests he is talking about. I consider they lie in the European Union. I would be the first to stress what Mr Major said about keeping Britain at the heart of Europe." The ease with which Mr Santer reeled off figures to show Britain's trading power in Europe testified to his work wooing the decision-makers in the Union's most reluctant member since he took office with Mr Major's blessing last January. He was, he said, amused by Britain's preoccupation with EMU since it was in the "very privileged position" of being able to choose whether to join while meeting the entrance requirements. "Britain only has to see where its interest lies when the moment comes to pass."

> "I do not think you can have a policy of opt-outs, as that leads to Europe à la carte"

What would he say to the Briton-in-the-street alarmed at the idea of giving up the pound? "I would say get on the Eurostar train and realise that with a single currency you could travel all over Europe without losing at the exchanges," he said. "People are very attached to their national currency, but you have to ask yourself what sovereignty there is these days. We are all dependent, even the Germans, on the erratic fluctuations of the international markets."

On London's other opt-out, the social chapter, Mr Santer said that Britain must eventually fall into line. "I do not consider that in the long term you can have a policy of opt-outs, because that leads to Europe à la carte."

Opening frontiers to free movement, another source of British objection, would eventually depend on the creation of a better internal security system, an area under review at the inter-governmental conference.

The EC President would not endorse the gloom that has infected some of his 19 Commissioners in recent weeks as serious frictions have emerged over the monetary union project.

"Never in my memory has there been such a firm political commitment as there is now to ensure the Maastricht criteria for economic convergence." The old 12-member Union never saw such a consensus on policy. He recognised that the Union faced a big task to win favour from a disillusioned public. "We need mainly to answer the aspirations of the young. That means finding ways of creating employment and making business more competitive and making the internal market work."

This realism, while welcome in Britain and elsewhere, is beginning to irk more federal-minded colleagues who believe that Mr Santer's focus on good housekeeping at the expense of visionary leadership is eroding the Commission's influence.

"I am a pragmatic man," Mr Santer says, reviewing the work of his first nine months. His goals for his term, which ends in 2000, are concrete: these are making the internal market work, steering the passage to monetary union and opening the Union to the countries of the East. "I think that if we can manage all that, the mission will have been accomplished."

Letters, page 21

Bonn resigned to delay in EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Bonn Government yesterday announced that it would rather delay the introduction of European monetary union than go ahead without France.

Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, said he hoped and believed that France would reduce its budget deficit sufficiently to meet the entrance qualification for monetary union in 1999. "But if it does not make it, then it will be better to wait a year or two than to change the criteria," the minister said.

While this has been German policy for some time, it has not been quite so publicly or coherently stated by a minister. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, recently conceded that monetary union would be politically impossible without France.

The official position is one of faith in a Parisian economic miracle: the ministers are emphasising their belief that delay will be rendered unnecessary by a superhuman effort on the part of the French Government. President Chirac, who is due in Germany next week, will be urged to make a statement boosting confidence in French economic policy. Most doubts centre on France's ability to shrink its budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Herr Rexrodt, speaking to the *International Herald Tribune*, said: "France is strongly committed to Europe. The French know that without European integration their country will be located on the edge of Europe."

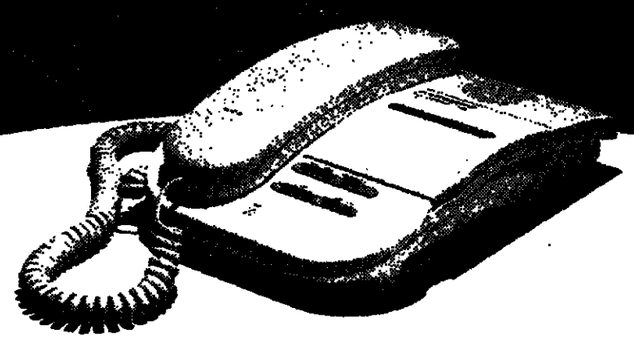
He hoped that single currency would be achieved as soon as possible but emphasised that "one year later or sooner is not decisive. What is more important is that Maastricht criteria be maintained and that we have sanctions against EMU members who do not stick to the criteria."

The question of sanctions to enforce financial discipline after EMU entry is increasingly occupying the thoughts of German government think tanks. The Kiel Institute for World Economy yesterday said that a sanctions mechanism had to be established and written into international law.

"Penalties have to work as a deterrent, so that excessive indebtedness does not occur at all. And when a country, having lapsed, fulfils the criteria again it should get its money back," the institute's Professor Hannes Lehmer said.

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Claes pleads with Belgian MPs to save Nato career

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND GEORGE BROCK

WILLY CLAES, the Nato Secretary-General, appeared before the Belgian parliament last night in a last-ditch attempt to save himself from prosecution on corruption charges and the loss of the alliance post which he has held for only a year.

Mr Claes, 56, slipped into the chamber shortly before its 150 members began a hearing in camera of the case against him and Guy Coeme, a fellow former Cabinet member from the Flemish Socialist Party. The chamber endorsed a commission recommendation to send the case against Mr Coeme, a former Defence Minister, back to the prosecutor for further investigation.

The late-night vote by secret ballot on the Claes affair was expected to be close after a number of MPs voiced doubts over the circumstantial nature of the evidence against him. The MPs could decide to seek further investigation, a step that would prolong the agony at Nato, which has been operating for the past week in the assumption that Mr Claes's time was up.

The parliament had been widely expected to endorse the commission recommendation to lift Mr Claes's immunity and send him to trial on charges connected with alleged bribes paid by the Agusta and Dassault aviation companies to the Flemish Socialists in 1988. MPs were instructed to vote according to conscience.

Mr Claes's former Socialist colleagues, who belong to the governing coalition led by Jean-Luc Dehaene, dealt him a blow by signalling that they did not view his case as a matter of political loyalty. A vote to indict was deemed certain to force Mr Claes's resignation and launch the search for a new Secretary-General.

A sense of high drama pervaded the corridors of the 165-year-old parliament building, which was turned, under the constitution, into a judicial chamber for the hearing.

No such proceeding there had attracted so much emotion since a Baron Chazal was impeached after fighting another member in a duel a century ago, according to *Le Soir*. While party officials calculated the odds of impeachment, the Belgian public showed it wanted to turn the page on an affair that has brought the country into disrepute. A poll of 1,000 people yesterday showed that 93 per cent believed Mr Claes, a volatile politician from a humble background, should resign. Only 5 per cent wanted him to stay on at Nato.

No clear candidate has emerged from a short list of likely successors circulating among governments of the 16-member alliance. Three frontrunners have "emerged" to take over if Mr Claes steps down, but the formal announcement of a job vacancy might see other candidates appear. American sources hint that if Mr Claes goes, Washington will insist on a senior political figure from a key Nato state. The two weightiest politicians whose names have been floated — Britain's Douglas Hurd and Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister — have dismissed suggestions that they might be interested.



Claes: fighting on to save top Nato job

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, 53, leader of the Danish opposition Liberal Party, is keen to get the job and is being discreetly pushed by Copenhagen. He is not much liked by the French and German governments, and the British and Americans fear that he may be too volatile.

Washington is afraid that a politician from a small state may not have the clout to handle the big governments if Nato hits a real crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina or any other war zone. He has one advantage over the Dutch candidates: there has never been a Danish Secretary-General, while a Dutchman has already held the job once.

Ruud Lubbers is, at 56, the grand old man of Dutch politics. A Catholic Christian Democrat with a famously sharp brain and tongue, he served as Prime Minister in The Hague for a record-breaking 12 years until he stepped down in 1994. "He would only take the Nato job if it was offered to him on a plate," said one observer.

Hans van den Broek, 58, is a Dutch member of the European Commission specialising in Eastern Europe. Sober, experienced — with ten years as Dutch Foreign Minister — he has so far been lacklustre in Brussels. But he has shown interest in the Nato post and might be marginally more favoured by Bonn and Paris than his old rival, Mr Lubbers.

If Mr van den Broek were to land the Nato job, the coveted job of handling Eastern Europe in the European Commission might be up for grabs. Sir Leon Brittan was not given these duties last year and would dearly love to seize them back from his Dutch colleague.



Andrei Kozyrev has become a hated figure, accused of selling out Russian interests

Yeltsin to sack Kozyrev for his 'pro-West' views

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN signalled a further hardening of relations with the West yesterday when he announced plans to remove Andrei Kozyrev, his Foreign Minister, and vowed to resist Nato's new security role in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Eastern Europe.

At a press conference in the Kremlin, before his visit to Paris and New York at the weekend, the Russian leader emerged in combative style, sounding more like one of his nationalist opponents than the reformist figure once allied to the West.

After months of rumours, Mr Yeltsin confirmed that his longest serving minister, and one of the last liberals left in the Government, would be replaced as soon as a suitable candidate had been found.

He accused Mr Kozyrev of failing to work properly with his Cabinet colleagues. "All foreign policy issues in the Government are to be co-ordinated by the Foreign Minister ... But he is unable to cope with many ministers. This is the gist of the problem," Mr Yeltsin said.

However, it is believed in Moscow that the real reason for Mr Kozyrev's dismissal was that his perceived pro-Western stance was no longer acceptable. The Foreign Minister has become a hated figure among hardline communist and nationalist leaders who accuse him of selling out Russia's interests.

While Mr Yeltsin is in charge of formulating foreign policy initiatives, and equally responsible for their failings, Kremlin watchers said that Mr Kozyrev's sacking would help to deflect criticism of his administration. Candidates tipped to succeed Mr Kozyrev, include Yevgeni Primakov, the head of foreign intelligence, Anatoli Adamishin, the Ambassador to London, and Sergei Filatov, the Chief of Staff.

Mr Yeltsin also intends to harden Russia's position regarding Nato's expansion and peacekeeping operation in Bosnia when he meets President Clinton after his address to the United Nations General Assembly.

"We propose a European security system that would exclude the expansion of Nato and the presence of nuclear weapons into the countries of Eastern and Central Europe," he said.

Algerian extremist fuels Bonn terrorist fears

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government's fears that the bombing campaign in France will spread across the border was heightened yesterday when an Algerian extremist said Islamic militants could "rise up and fight" in Germany.

Abdelkhadar Sahraoui — who has acted as an intermediary between the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the banned opposition group, and the Algerian Government — told German television that Bonn was acting as an accomplice of Algiers. He was speaking after the arrest of five Algerian fundamentalists in Germany. The detainees included two sons of Abassi Madani, the co-founder of the FIS, who are being charged with arms smuggling offences. Mr Madani and his family have set up home near Cologne and have applied for asylum in Germany. Rabah Kebir, the front's leader-in-exile, also lives near Cologne. France has been putting pressure on Germany to crack down on arms smuggling to Islamic groups. According to reports by the German and French security services, transmitters and communications equipment have been bought in Germany and the Czech Republic, smuggled into France and then on to Algeria. Guns, detonators and explosives have followed a similar route.

Mr Sahraoui said that if Mr Madani's sons were charged, the front would have to ask itself if Germany was co-operating in a "strategy to liquidate the Algerian opposition". If this were the case, the FIS would consider ways of "resisting", he said. Weapons procurement abroad and acts of violence in Algeria were "legitimate methods for getting rid of the junta", Mr Sahraoui said.

The comments were in marked contrast to the far more cautious public utterances of Mr Kebir, who has consistently denied the Islamic front's involvement in arms trafficking. "Our organisation is against violence. We have chosen the peaceful, political path," he said recently.

Britain aids French hunt for militants

London: Britain has stepped up police supervision of Algerian exiles and, in the past two weeks, has allowed unprecedented co-operation with French security forces hunting Islamic activists behind the spate of Paris bombings, according to British officials (Michael Binyon writes). However, they admit there are up to 5,000 Algerian illegal immigrants in Britain — as many as live in the country legally. Only 200 regularly take part in protests.

The officials confirmed that Algeria, unhappy at Britain's use as a haven for exiled radicals, has urged a clampdown on the political activities of asylum-seekers.

President Chirac, during his visit at the end of the month, will discuss with John Major the threat posed by the Algerian conflict.

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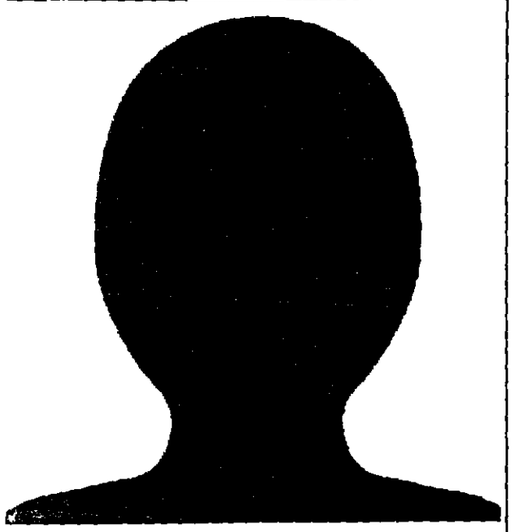
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Spice Island warms to separatist's campaign call for socialist defeat

Zanzibar takes its first step on rocky road to democracy

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN ZANZIBAR

POLITICAL slogans in Swahili boomed from a loud hailer mounted on a white pick-up truck. Young men on motorcycles wearing shiny tracksuits and helmets of matching yellow and green trailed behind in the dust, revving their engines. This is electioneering, Zanzibar-style.

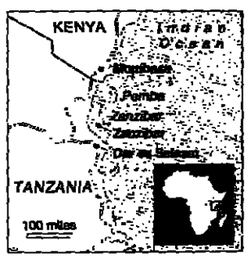
Yellow and green are the colours of Chama Cha Matinbuzi (CCM), the socialist party founded by Julius Nyerere, the former President, which has ruled Zanzibar since the Indian Ocean island united with mainland Tanganyika to create Tanzania in 1964. But after three decades of one-party rule, the colours may be about to change. This Sunday sees the first multi-party elections for the island's parliament and presidency, seven days before polls for the whole union, and Zanzibar's incumbent President, Salmin Amour, is on the ropes.

Along a potholed road lined with palm trees, a boisterous convoy snakes past crumbling shacks of mud and corrugated iron, returning triumphant from a rabble-rousing rally. The heaving mass of humanity, faces ghostly with dust, spills out of buses and lorries embellished with red and white flags, singing and clapping in unison. Inside a four-wheel drive vehicle, their chubby hero waves majestically at onlookers.

With his tight, beige safari suit and fluffy beard, Seif Sharif Hamad has a rather comic appearance but many islanders appear prepared to take him seriously. The former teacher served as a minister in the Zanzibar Government but was expelled from the CCM party in 1988 when he turned critic.

Jailed on trumped-up charges the following year, his notoriety spread during 30 months' solitary confinement before the sentence was quashed. Now, under the banner of the liberal democrat Civic United Front, he stands a strong chance of leading his Zanzibar-based party to victory and ousting his former colleagues.

"The Zanzibar Government is very corrupt and it is not



concerned with the plight of the people," declared Mr Hamad, 52, delicately dabbing his huge sweaty forehead. "Under the British, this island was run efficiently. We aim to emulate that."

Also known as the Spice Island, exotic Zanzibar has lured travellers in search of trade, plunder and exquisite beaches. It was latterly governed by Omani sultans under a British protectorate from 1890 to 1963 before they were toppled after independence in a bloody uprising. Once the largest slaving entrepôt on Africa's east coast, its colourful collection of quaint shops, mosques, cathedrals and palaces hints at the island's rich and distinctive history, which has drawn an eclectic mix of Africans, Asians and Arabs under the yoke of Islam.

That distinctiveness is reflected in separate immigration controls and legislature, which also govern Pemba, the smaller island to the north. Legislative powers, however, are limited because 21 policy areas remain in union hands. The uneasy relationship between the mainland and the islands has provoked fierce debate on autonomy and it is a central theme of the campaign: the CCM favours the present system with a national government and an island government; the United Front supports greater autonomy.

The party's separatist call, coupled with its pledges to stamp out corruption, improve healthcare and education have struck a chord with the 350,000 voters. Mr Hamad has promised to boost the flagging economy and improve public services.

Drivers lounge beneath graffiti-scarred trees on a side street listening to Mr Hamad's speeches and chanting back his every word. A few blocks away a crowd has gathered to hear local United Front candidates. Muslim women in headscarves sit in front of their menfolk, children at their feet, listening attentively. Cries of "*Haki*" (equal rights) from the podium are met with delight. "The people are excited because they want change," said Muhammad Ali, 42, a United Front activist. "They have had enough of lousy socialist rule."



Zanzibaris have made autonomy from the mainland the focus of the election

The outcome may hang on the voters of Pemba. Mr Hamad was born there and pundits predict that his party could win at least 18 of the 21 seats and ensure outright victory with a reasonable showing on Zanzibar. Mr Amour, 53, is feeling the pinch and has toured the island tirelessly, warning inhabitants that change will bring turmoil.

Tension between the parties has flared into conflict. At the weekend 27 people were injured during clashes at a United Front rally in Pemba. For the languid islanders, this has come as a shock, and reggae-loving "beach boys" say they want the polls over with quickly. "Hey man, we don't need no fighting round here," said Eddie "The Great", slowly raising a herb-induced smile. "We just want Bob Marley elections."

Man of 81 jailed for murders and rapes

BY INIGO GILMORE

A GRANDFATHER dubbed the "Naivasha Monster" has been sentenced to life imprisonment in Kenya for multiple murders, rapes and battery over 57 years.

In a case that shocked Kenyans and made nationwide headlines, a court in Naivasha, west of Nairobi, heard that John Muhu, 81, committed a series of crimes stretching back to 1938 and culminating in his fifth murder earlier this year. He was arrested in January after slitting the throat of his son, Francis, with a sword.

Investigations unearthed a chronology of crime with which he had previously not been linked: in 1938 he killed a shepherd in Nyahururu; ten years later, he murdered his father by binding him with rope and dragging him along a rough path; in 1953, his pregnant wife died instantly after he struck her with a stool; and two years later he starved one of his sons to death after ensuring that no one visited the home where he lived with his four children.

The other children were saved by a maternal aunt, who fled with them to Tanzania. After a lengthy lull, the Naivasha Monster re-emerged in 1989, then aged 75, and was jailed for eight months for raping a 13-year-old girl. Shortly after his release he threatened to kill a man, and residents from his town raised money and tracked down his relatives, who had secretly returned to the country.

His married son agreed to accommodate his father, but on January 8, without provocation, the old man overpowered him at his home and slit his throat. According to the court, he killed his son to erase memories of the wife he had killed 42 years earlier.

The court heard that many who knew him said he was a vicious criminal who had an insatiable lust for sex and blood. Yet many of his crimes went undetected.

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Peking's threat to neuter rights Bill fuels colony anger

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

EVEN Peking's Hong Kong allies were last night seething over shadow government plans that threaten to emasculate the colony's Bill of Rights after 1997.

The proposal was made in Peking on Tuesday by the committee of influential Hong Kong and Chinese citizens handpicked to advise on the handover of sovereignty. The group recommended that the Bill of Rights be stripped of its power to override other local laws, prompting fears that human rights would be unprotected.

The committee also wants reinstatement of laws the Hong Kong Government has revoked — including a ban on societies that have not registered with the police, and limitations on the Governor's power to forbid television and radio programmes deemed to be destabilising, and of his right to invoke broad "emergency powers".

"I am horrified, although I have to say I'm not really surprised," said Martin Lee, a leading pro-democracy politician and lawyer.

The Preliminary Working Committee (PWC) said it made the proposal because the Bill of Rights challenges the Peking-drafted constitution covering Hong Kong when the British leave, as well as the powers of the post-1997 administration.

In Geneva yesterday, Britain came under further pressure at the United Nations, as several human rights committee members questioned the strength of civil liberties legislation after 1997.

Although he welcomed the joint British-Chinese declaration, one UN committee member said several aspects of the post-1997 constitution contradicted the Bill of Rights, and would allow it to be repealed.

The committee conducts regular hearings on human rights in countries that have signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Britain contends that the Joint Declaration will maintain civil liberties under Chinese rule. China has not signed the international covenant.

In Geneva, a delegation from Hong Kong's Legislative Council said it feared that, without further pressure on China and Britain, the UN would not be able to monitor human rights after 1997. The UN committee is due to produce what could be its final recommendations on human rights there early next month.

Chris Patten, the Governor, who is due in London today, expects the "highest level" of the British Government to protest to China about the proposals. Yesterday he said: "Don't underestimate the dangers done here and abroad every time ... those who advise China give the impression that, come 1997, the protection of Hong Kong's freedom and way of life is going to be dismantled.

"That sort of statement hits every agency tape around the world. You can buy advertising space by the yard to say how wonderful Hong Kong is and is going to be, but that sort of story undoes all the good work and all the good words."

Mr Patten said that the proposals pushed the colony's rule of law to the edge of "a slippery slope". However, a spokesman for the committee, said: "The Hong Kong public has been misled for years that if there is no Bill of Rights there will be no human rights in the territory." The committee says the Bill violates Peking's mini-constitution for Hong Kong after 1997.

Tsang Yok-sing, the chairman of the main Peking-orientated political party, the Democratic Alliance for a Better Hong Kong, said: "There should be no hurry in amending laws".

The Democratic Party, the largest elected Legislative Council group, thought the proposals were "a shocking blow to freedom after 1997" which "represent a real threat to Hong Kong people ruling themselves with the promised high degree of autonomy".

Mr Lee, who is party chairman, said the committee was "doing China's dirty work". He doubted whether Britain and Hong Kong would forcibly resist the undermining of the Bill.

General to leave Bosnia as peace hopes rise

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, is to leave his post early to take up a new job as the military chief in Northern Ireland, it was announced in London yesterday.

General Smith, 52, who has so far completed nine months of what is normally a one-year appointment, was commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina during one of the most eventful periods of the war.

He has avoided publicity, directing the world's media to his public relations staff. His quiet but tough approach and his support for a more comprehensive Nato bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs has played a key part in bringing Bosnia closer than ever to an overall peace settlement.

General Smith argued that Nato airstrikes should be backed up by extra ground forces. His pressure led to the formation of a rapid reaction force armed with artillery. The placing of troops and artillery on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo was crucial in helping to lift the siege of the Bosnian capital.

General Smith is expected to leave Sarajevo within the next few weeks. Last night the Ministry of Defence praised his services, saying: "General Smith has done an excellent job in very difficult circumstances." He is to be replaced by Major-General Michael Jackson, who is the commander of 3 (UK) Division, one of the units that could be chosen for providing troops for Bosnia as part of Britain's contribution towards the proposed Nato-led peace implementation force.

General Jackson, described by his senior aides as a "colourful and flamboyant character", will arrive in Bosnia at a crucial period of transition. If the peace talks, expected to begin in Washington next month, produce an early agreement, the UN peacekeeping troops will be replaced by the more heavily armed Nato peace implementation force.

General Jackson, 51, who was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps and is a Russian speaker, transferred to The Parachute Regiment and commanded the 1st Battalion between 1982 and 1985. He was appointed General Officer Commanding 3 (UK) Division, based at Bulford in Wiltshire, in March 1994.

☐ Paris: France last night condemned as grotesque claims by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, that two French pilots captured seven weeks ago had been kidnapped, possibly by "Muslim terrorists" (Ben Macintyre writes). The Foreign Ministry said: "Either the two pilots are dead or else he is mocking us."



Major-General Michael Jackson, who will take over from General Rupert Smith

WORLD SUMMARY

Murder suspect injured

Johannesburg: A man suspected of murdering 40 women was being guarded in hospital after he was shot and wounded by South African police (Ray Kennedy writes).

It was claimed that Moses Sithole, 31, attacked the police with an axe when they closed in on his hideout in Benoni, east of here, on Wednesday night and he was shot in the arm and stomach. His condition was said to be satisfactory and police said they would question him as soon as he was fit enough to talk.

Crackdown on Aids criminals

Rome: Italy has closed a legal loophole, repeatedly exploited by a bank-robbing trio dubbed the Aids Gang, that allowed terminally-ill crooks to commit crimes with impunity.

The constitutional court in Rome has ruled that judges no longer have to set free sentenced criminals who have a terminal illness. Those awaiting trial can also be imprisoned or isolated in secure premises. *(Reuter)*

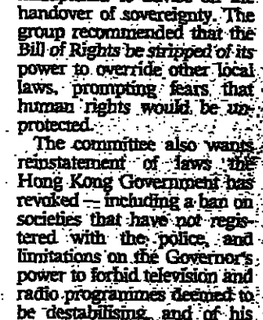
Italian minister defies Senate

Rome: The Senate passed a no-confidence vote in Filippo Mancuso, the Justice Minister, because of what it saw as his efforts to hamper the work of Milan magistrates combating corruption (John Phillips writes). Signor Mancuso, 73, a former judge, refused to resign after the vote: the standoff threatens to topple Lamberto Dini's Government.

Zambia scraps Kaunda inquiry

Lusaka: The Zambian Government has dropped its investigation into whether Kenneth Kaunda, 71, the former President, ruled the country illegally as a Malawian until taking out proper citizenship. Dr Kaunda is to challenge President Chiluba in next October's elections. *(Reuter)*

Castro to invade New York with army of bodyguards



Castro: barred from Clinton's reception

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

MORE than 36 years after he seized power in Cuba, President Castro will arrive in New York this weekend to an enthusiastic welcome from businessmen but can expect as much political displeasure as ever.

The United States granted Señor Castro a visa to make a rare visit for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations at the United Nations. The Cuban leader may meet the Rockefellers and business representatives. President Clinton has invited heads of state to a reception, but Señor Castro has been left off the list.

Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, insisted that Señor Castro also be excluded from the city's reception at the World Financial Centre on Sunday night. "It's my party . . . I didn't want him invited," Mr Giuliani said. He cited his friendship with Cuban exiles in Miami, "whose families were tortured by Castro". However, the respected Council on Foreign Relations is holding a lunch on Monday in the Cuban leader's honour and the Rockefeller family hopes to arrange a meeting between Señor Castro and a group of academics and businessmen. Outraged Cuban exile leaders say that they will protest against the Rockefeller party, as well as Señor Castro's speech to the United Nations earlier in the day.

The Cuban leader is due to arrive on Saturday with an entourage of 150 people, mostly bodyguards. As a guest of the UN, he will be free to move around the city as he pleases, but only within a 25-mile radius of the city centre.

Before the 1959 Cuban revolution that swept him to power, Señor Castro visited New York several times. He spent a honeymoon there in 1948, and also raised funds in the city for his rebel army.

It is only his second appearance in America since he shocked New York during a theatrical visit in 1960. Complaining about hotel prices, the Cuban delegation checked out of one hotel, leaving rooms scarred by cigar and cigarette burns, and moved into a rundown hotel in Harlem. Señor Castro then lectured the UN General Assembly in a speech that lasted four and a half hours. He addressed the body again in 1979, speaking for a more modest two hours.

While nations across the world disapprove of Cuba's one-party communist system, they also increasingly reject the American policy of aggressively seeking to isolate Cuba.



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Maoris welcome return of land

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

MAORI tribal representatives sang, wept and applauded in the New Zealand parliament's public gallery yesterday as a law redressing a 132-year-old land grievance with the Crown was approved.

The Queen will sign the Bill during a visit to New Zealand next month. The dispute has simmered since British colonists confiscated vast areas of Maori land last century.

Under the £70 million deal, the Tainui Federation of Tribes in the North Island's Waikato region will be given back 38,000 acres of land over five years and receive £26 million.

About a million acres of Tainui land was seized to punish Maori rebels and secure a farming hinterland for Auckland after the 1863-64 Waikato War. About 150 Tainui tribal representatives, including Queen Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu of the Maoris, were in parliament yesterday after travelling to Wellington on a chartered train for the Bill's third reading.

The settlement comes amid mounting anger among Maori radicals over land grievances, which has seen public buildings and reserves occupied and attacked and an historic school on disputed land burnt down. Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, said that if protesters took note of the Tainui deal, "today ... will have been a new beginning for New Zealand".

Medicare cuts set to spark clash

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A DRAMATIC clash between President Clinton and Congress loomed last night as the House of Representatives prepared to approve the most radical step yet in the Republican revolution.

Despite angry demonstrations on Capitol Hill and a promised presidential veto, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, predicted that the healthcare Bill would be passed by a "fairly comfortable majority". The Bill is designed to cut $270 billion (£172 billion) over the next seven years from spending on Medicare, the health insurance programme for 37 million elderly Americans.

Until now Medicare had been considered untouchable and the Republicans are taking a huge risk in applying such drastic surgery, but the cost of the programme is rising so fast that the Republicans will not achieve a balanced budget by 2002 unless they take action.

Mr Clinton vowed to veto the Bill if it was passed by the Senate, but the Republicans have threatened to trigger America's first default on its debts if he does. They intend to combine the Medicare Bill, and another cutting $182 billion from the Medicaid programme for the poor, in a budget package they will present to Mr Clinton next month. They say they will not lift the Administration's debt ceiling next month unless he approves this and other Bills to cut spending and taxes.

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Griff Rhys Jones, the other one with Mel Smith, is just a normal guy — a shy teetotal millionaire

'We aren't bosom pals, more like brothers in the mafia'



Griff Rhys Jones: "I belong to an unhip club that includes Kenneth Branagh and Phil Collins. However many skeletons in our closets, we remain middle-of-the-road"

He is lantern-jawed, bug-eyed with the braying voice of Basil Brush and the twitching mannerisms of a heroin addict in detox. By normal standards, Griff Rhys Jones (no relation to Prince Edward's girlfriend Sophie) might come across as a bit of a weirdo, but next to the fatter, more uncouth Mel Smith, his comedy and business partner, he has acquired a reputation as a normal guy.

"I have always been 'The other one'," says Rhys Jones, bellowing so loudly that they can probably hear him in his birthplace Cardiff. "In *Not the Nine o'Clock News*, Rowan (Atkinson) was the grotesque one, Mel was memorable, so I was the straight man. I played policemen and dentists. It was a bit strange because until then I'd been the grotesque one myself."



JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

We are talking in the West End offices of Smith and Jones's production company Talkback, which turns out some of the hippest comedy of the moment, such as *Knowing Me Knowing You* and *The Day Today*. Angus Deayton is leaving as I arrive, the floors are covered in coir matting, a red electric guitar lies in the corner and a video recorder clicks on and off. No figures are available, but the company is said to have made the men millionaires.

"Oh, I'm seriously rich," hoots Rhys Jones, not altogether seriously. "I am covered in angst because I am so rich."

The so-called tycoon of comedy is dressed in jeans, leather jacket and Armani specs, and twisting and turning on the squashy red sofa. He drums his fingers and rubs his leg. His manic chatter is interrupted by machinegun bursts of laughter and tends to tail off into ums and ers. We had met a week before at a press launch, where he had looked about as happy as John Redwood on *Blind Date*. At the time I had thought he was arrogant; now, I realise, he is amiability itself, just acutely shy.

Journalists have a hard time digging dirt up about Rhys Jones. Tabloid lists of the "Seven things you never knew" variety include such thrillers as "Aged six, he wrote a school essay, saying he wanted to be Charlie Drake when he grew up" and "He led a successful campaign to stop the development of a new jail within sight of his Suffolk farmhouse". He is 41 and has been married, with two children, to Jo, a graphic designer, for 14 years. "I belong to an unhip club that includes Kenneth Branagh and Phil Collins," he cries, waving his legs in the air. "However many skeletons there may be in our closets, we remain resolutely middle-of-the-road."

Instead, scandalmongers concentrate on the Smith and Jones partnership and rumours that the pair hate each other. "We are very different," says Rhys Jones. "Mel is urban and sporty. I am the opposite." Smith spends most of the year in LA, where he is building a directing career and is an easy-going, hard-drinking, party animal, on air-kissing terms with *le tout* Hollywood. Rhys Jones has houses in London and Suffolk, is teetotal and a fretter. Social situations leave him in a sweat. "I went to a party recently and got cornered by the make-up girl, who introduced me to her husband who turned out to be a make-up man. I didn't know how to get away from them, so we ended up talking for 15 minutes and everyone thought what a good guy I was, when I just hadn't a clue how to extract myself.

"Mel and I do like each other, but we are not bosom pals, inasmuch as we don't seek each other out," he says. "We're more like brothers in the mafia. Our lives are fantastically intertwined and there's no rivalry. We are very happy if the other one pulls something off. At the moment Mel's playing Toby Belch in Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*. I don't think 'How dare Mel get that'. I think 'I hope his film becomes an enormous success' so I can sidle up to people and say I'm his mate."

They must like each other a bit, given they have been together for 16 years ("is it really that long? *God*!"). Mel was a bookie's son who had been to Oxford; Griff, a doctor's son, who had grown up in Essex, had been to Cambridge where he was a contemporary of Clive Anderson, Rory McGrath and the director Nicholas Hytner. He toured with the Footlights and directed radical, left-wing dramas. He left to become a BBC Radio producer and then joined *Not the Nine o'Clock News*, the first exciting thing that had happened to British comedy since the demise of the Pythons. Everyone has their favourite *Nine o'Clock* moment, be it the Abba sketch ("One of us is ugly, one of us is cute / One of us you'd like to see in her birthday suit") or the squashed hedgehog. Highlights are being shown on BBC2 next Friday. "I don't think it will have dated," Rhys Jones says. "It wasn't as topical as people remembered, just fairly standard sketches."

> 'I am covered in angst because I'm so rich'

Pamela Stephenson married Billy Connolly, Rowan Atkinson became Blackadder; "Fatty and Grumpy" stayed together. In the intervening years, other comedy classics came and went. *The Young Ones* left college, Stephen Fry did a bunk and Ben Elton ran out of things to moan about. Meanwhile, there have been ten series of Smith and Jones, the most recent of which ended this week, each one a safe mixture of silly sketches and trademark head-to-heads in which the pair discuss such issues as sexual harassment and body piercing ("The first time my girlfriend saw me with an earring through the end of my knob she went mad." "It was one of hers, was it?")

The series has been well reviewed but ratings have been poor. "We think maybe it's because the first programme clashed with *Coronation Street* and then we were up against the football."

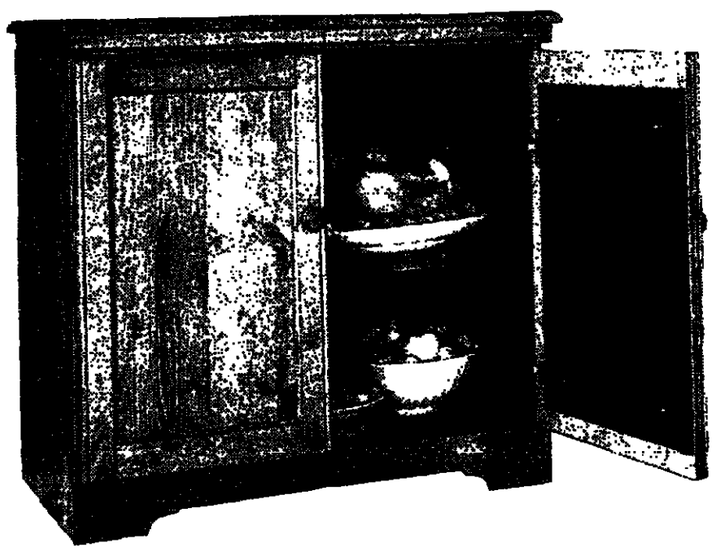
Or it may have been, as was the case with me, that viewers could not believe yet another series was being rolled out and decided these must be repeats. The pair attribute their longevity to the fact that they have never been alternative comedians, more the heirs to the cosy coupling of the Two Ronnies or Morecambe and Wise.

Rhys Jones says the programme may continue until the crack of doom. "The trouble is double acts don't easily transfer to other things. Rowan or John Cleese can reinvent themselves but people would rather see us together than on our own."

Yet Rhys Jones is well known in the theatrical world as an accomplished farceur. He has won awards for his performances in *Charlie's Aunt* and *An Absolute Turkey* and appears, rather unexpectedly, in this month's *Vanity Fair*, photographed by Snowdon as one of the luminaries of the British theatre. "Ah," he says looking mischievous. "That was because Snowdon greatly enjoyed *Wind in the Willows*, which he saw me in, so as far as he's concerned I'm in the theatre, with people like Maggie Smith."

Such self-deprecation is relentless. He appears on BBC2 next Sunday, presenting the first of six programmes of *The Bookworm*, a populist books series. "The producer always flashes research at me and cries 'They love you, they love you!' But I say 'Who?' She says 'All the old ladies who watch the programme'."

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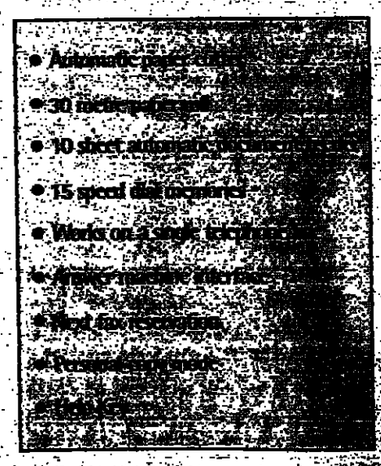
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The man who designed Yves

Giles Coren discovers why haute couture is not for the British

Paris, in October, goes *prêt à porter* mad. The café talk is all of Kenzo and Cerruti, Dior and Yamamoto, the taxi drivers tut at falling hemlines and sales staff in the boutiques whoop and squeal over frayed fashion pages.

The fever of the ready-to-wear collections, so gruesomely satirised in Robert Altman's film, *Prêt à Porter*, is symptomatic of the new, accessible face of fashion. These are designs that the reasonably, rather than ridiculously rich can aspire to.

But 5 Avenue Marceau, on the Left Bank of the Seine, is a throwback to the golden years of Paris fashion. Here, at the office of Yves Saint Laurent, is the genuine article, the *haute couture* attainable by almost no one, where the likes of Catherine Deneuve and Elizabeth Taylor are fitted for dresses which will cost £20,000. Listen very carefully: they will wear these dresses only once.

But you get what you pay for. The fitting room is like the bed chamber of a fairy-tale princess. The fabrics and furniture boast of old world opulence. The elegance of the *ancien régime* is taken further in M Saint Laurent's own office, a glamfest of mirrors, gilt and velvet.

But Saint Laurent, the last of the great designers, did not make this happen. Further down the corridor, in an equally extravagant room, is the office of Pierre Bergé, the man they call "the pitbull of French fashion". He and Saint Laurent set up the company in 1962, and they have been business partners ever since. They were also called "the most famous gay couple in the world" until they split in 1976.

It was Bergé who negotiated the deals and set the prices. He bore the strain of Saint Laurent's well-documented emotional frailty, and in 1993 pulled off his masterstroke, selling the company to Elf-Sanofi in a £400 million share swap.

> 'I've never sold haute couture to an English woman'
> [redacted]

He is a political activist and close friend of François Mitterrand, who appointed him as director of the controversial Bastille Opera, where he hired and fired without mercy.

As he paced his office, I learnt where this hardness was born. "It was 1948 or 1949 that I spent a night in prison with Albert Camus," he recalls, eschewing flouncy fashion talk.

"At that time I was 19 years old and I had started an anarchist newspaper called *La Patrie Mondiale*. Camus, Sartre and André Breton all wrote for it. I knew them well. It was a movement in Paris after the war, and I was at the centre of it, don't ask me why.

"One day we went to demonstrate at the American Embassy in Paris. There were about 20 of us. Two minutes later the military police came, everybody ran away, and the two people who were caught were Camus and I. They took us to a small jail where we spent the night without sleeping. It was nice, there was no problem. I met so many extraordinary people when I was young, it did not seem unnatural."

He also knew Jean Cocteau, and when the author's adopted son died, the copyright passed to Bergé, who owns and oversees it to this day.

He had come to Paris to paint, but when he realised he would not make the grade he made Bernard Buffet his protégé, and established him as a world-class painter. That talent — to recognise a marketable artistic ability — was what drew him to Saint Laurent in 1958, when the designer was still at Christian Dior.

With such a background, Bergé is better entitled than most to comment on fashion's relation to art, something on which the French and British have long disagreed.

"Haute couture is like painting, or literature," he says. "It is only art if it is created by an artist. There is as much talent in a Coco Chanel as in a Braque, or a Virginia Woolf. There are many Sunday painters, and there are many Sunday fashion designers, but if it is not made by an artist it is not art."

And who are the artists?

"But Yves Saint Laurent, of course. The rest is a joke. In haute couture there is one genius, Yves Saint Laurent, and no-bo-dee else." He sings the word, accenting each syllable like a primary school French teacher, and sounds genuinely offended by the question.

Then he waxes existential.

"Haute couture will be dead in a few years. It is ridiculous to carry on at something that loses money and obliges you to sell perfumes and ties. How many women have the money to buy a couture dress? And if they do buy the dress, where is it possible to wear it today? To do what? And for who?

"It is over, like art is over, and the intellectuals such as Sartre and Camus are over. Life has changed. Today it is not necessarily important to show, it is important to *be*. In a way it is wonderful, in terms of business maybe not. But it's wonderful. We don't need it like we did in the past. There are so many people who pretend to do haute couture today, like Versace for example, and for me it is just a disgrace" — he makes a strange Gallic spitting noise — "it is a joke, a con, shameful. It is Italian vulgarity, just a business. I am sorry because it means the end of an epoch and a world that I like very much. But we are like carriage drivers, and this is the age of the taxi."

> 'You are such snobs — you don't want to follow'
> [redacted]

As a committed leftwinger and anarchist it is fitting that he does not bemoan too loudly the passing of this market-driven elitist nonsense. It is bizarre, in fact, that he could ever reconcile the two.

"For a start, I am not a businessman. I know how to make money, but that is not my dream. I love success and glory, but I do not respect money. When I was young I wanted to be a writer or a painter or a journalist. I decided to work with Yves because it was an opportunity to help an artist. To develop his work, his image, his empire.

"People don't understand how you can be left-wing and rich at the same time. I know that. But we are obliged to live with our own contradictions and difficulties. My private life is well known, my money, my sexuality, my politics."

I mention that in England we have very few millionaire homosexual anarchists wielding political and cultural power. "Oh, you have them," says Bergé. "It is just more hidden."

He seems to know a fair bit about the British. And he will find out more when he comes to London on Monday for a retrospective show at the Savoy, the first time Yves Saint Laurent's haute couture has been shown in Britain.

Why is it that we have no haute couture here, and that it is as unthinkable as the idea of a British Pierre Bergé? "It is not a question of the designers. It is the people. For you it is vulgar to spend so many thousands of pounds on a piece of clothing. In all these years Yves has never made a couture dress for an English woman." It is an extraordinary statistic, even though he excepts Margot Fonteyn from the rule "because she was a dancer and half Brazilian", and Elizabeth Taylor, because he considers her American.

"In the 1960s it was London that taught the world that 'anything goes', and that was important for fashion. But the French are conservative. They think they have created claret wine, and cheese, and haute couture, and after that the rest of the world can only follow. And we do not like the English because we are xenophobes. We will not let them follow."

And the English are not xenophobes? "Ah, no. You are snobs, it is different. You do not *want* to follow."



ALICE SPRING

Yves Saint Laurent with Pierre Bergé, the "pitbull of the French fashion world"

Libby Purves on a proper tribute to our favourite hero

At last, the full Nelson

Tomorrow, Trafalgar Day, launches the Nelson Decade: a commemoration leading to the second centenary of his death. There will be speeches at Greenwich, his signal hoisted, cannons and shanties.

There will also, mark my words, be grumbling. Somebody from the "England's Heroes" school of history will find out that as you leave the new Nelson Gallery at the National Maritime Museum a sign winks: "Is this all propaganda? Who made Nelson?" Those who like their legends dusty will complain. Wrongly: it was time someone showed us Nelson without his hundred layers of dim Victorian varnish.

I see no ships. England expects. Kiss me Hardy, the arm and the blind eye are over-familiar. The heavy veneration we inherit is witnessed in the exhibition's room on the "Immortal Memory", which boasts a vast, vile collection of pottery renderings of the Death of Nelson, spanning more than a century. The museum shop, wittily, is selling one-armed teddy bears: after the Victorian memorabilia, they somehow become acceptable as subtle satire.



How Gillray saw Nelson's Nile victory

By the time you get there, the spare and beautiful exhibition has made Nelson real again. Here is the small peaky Horace at Burnham Thorpe; the boy sailor, sent to sea at 12 and returning "a practical seaman, with a horror of the Royal Navy"; the 15-year-old attempting single combat with a polar bear; the young officer despondent about promotion, writing: "Well then, I will be a hero and, confiding in Providence, I will brave every danger!" Here is the man playfully consoled by Emma Hamilton when he won the Battle of the Nile and got only a baronetcy. "If I was King of England," she wrote, "I would make you the most noble puissant Duke Nelson Marquis Nile Earl Alexander Vicount Pyramid Baron Crocadile and Prince Victory."

Here among the round-shot and the analysis of his strategic genius lie startling personal relics: the tourniquet that stemmed the blood when his arm was amputated, the surgeon's terrible toolbox, his wife's lace, objects from his illicit home with Emma; and, brass-framed and profuse, his own words. "With a good ship and ship's company we can come to no harm." "A left-handed Admiral will never again be considered as useful." "My character and good name are in my own keeping." "Thank God I have done my duty." "They have done for me at last, Hardy... pray let dear Lady Hamilton have my hair."

The hair, bound into a pigtail, is here. So is the musket-ball that killed him, gold lace still stuck to it. The death-piece is affecting: no waxwork tableau, only his coat lying as if he had died at our feet and vanished. Its very flatness is poignant. Alongside is the *Times* headline of November 7: "Capture of French and Spanish fleets — Death of Nelson." It took that long for Lieutenant Lapenotière of *HMS Pickle* to struggle a thousand miles through gales with the message: "Sir, we have gained a great Victory, but we have lost Lord Nelson."

The mesmeric effect of victory and loss on the subsequent century is clear from the souvenirs and retrospective prints, typically a sailor gazing up at a portrait of Nelson with "England! What thou wert, thou art!" Thirty years after Trafalgar, Nelson's officers still controlled the Navy. Fifty years on, the very shape of the *Victory* and her sisters, the "wooden walls of England", were so dear that it took a French example to jolt the Admiralty into building our first iron warship, *HMS Warrior*. The exhibition's final question is fair enough: who made Nelson?

So you walk back to the Rigaud portrait, the slight figure with colourless hair and arched brows and a face full of nervous *esprit* and determination. You pick up a telephone handset and hear an actor's voice quietly reading from Nelson's diary: "May the Great God, whom I adore, help me to succeed."

A remarkable man but a real one, not a piece of patriotic pottery. The late James Gardner, whose last exhibition design this is, has served him well.

'Excellent' *The Times*

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PETER MILLAR, *The Times*

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Philip Howard



■ So great men such as Baden-Powell had feet of clay. So what?

This week's hero with feet (and other bits) of clay is Baden-Powell. The advance publicity for Channel 4's film claims that it will expose the rotten reality behind the whited sepulchre of the Boer War hero, and examine his "confused sexuality and latent sadism". This may be effective advance puffery. But it is a false claim as well as a work of supererogation. Years ago, BP's own diaries and biographers "revealed" in exhaustive detail the sexual hang-ups of the patriarch of the Scout movement: his physical horror of female sexuality, his fascination by corporal and capital punishment and his delight in pubescent boys, preferably with no clothes on.

So now his family is threatening legal action. In his "On Yer Bike!" column in the *Currant Bun*, Lord Tebbit writes with scatological relish: "It's time these muckrakers all pedalled off to a cesspit where they could throw it at each other for the rest of time." In short, Veuve Clicquot all round at Channel 4's publicity department.

The argument about whether it is proper to point out the flaws in national institutions springs from the beginning of biography. Lytton Strachey shocked the stupid wing of polite society by his iconoclastic essays wittily demonstrating that such eminent Victorians as Florence Nightingale, Cardinal Manning, Thomas Arnold, General Gordon, and later even Queen Victoria herself, were not whitewashed saints but naughty human beings with flaws and faults in their characters. Shock! Surprise!

But in spite of Strachey's boast of inventing a new genre, he did not invent the muck-raking, warts-and-all biographical tendency. That is just the difference between biography and official hagiography of saints or press handouts of rulers, out of which it grew. Even in the inchoate biographies by Suetonius and Plutarch, the sexual perversions of the emperors are generally more interesting than their constitutional reforms or their military adventures. What Tiberius got up to with small boys on Capri and Messalina's steamy nightlife are more accessible for the general reader than changes in voting or the Roman greasy pole. Richard III was a better king than Holinshed chronicled. But Shakespeare's portrait of his secret life drawn from Holinshed's official PR for the Tudor regime is the one that has stuck in the popular imagination.

In the first modern biography, *The Life of Mr Richard Savage*, Samuel Johnson dealt with the low life of a debauched wastrel and accused murderer, and showed that one touch of nature, fickleness and bad behaviour can make the whole world kin. Boswell's life of Sam would have offended its hero because it dealt with his private conversation rather than his public carapace of grand old man of letters. But it made Sam Johnson the patron saint of English humour.

Whether Rudyard Kipling or Jane Austen was homosexual (absurd notion) is not the most important fact about them. That Gladstone flagellated himself after being aroused by prostitutes makes that austere figure more human, just as Johnson's sexual temptations and remorse are interesting.

Since Freud, and in reaction to Victorian prudery, this century is obsessed with sex. Previous generations had their obsessions with aristocracy, class, money and party politics. Martin Amis wrote of a biographer that his "dirty little fingers rifle through his subject's private life like a hick detective investigating a pimp's account book".

Baden-Powell was an eminent Victorian who has become a national institution. He created a movement that brought adventure and purpose, the tying of knots and woggles and toggles to millions of boys and girls. Like many Victorians and Britons of previous and subsequent generations he was not normal, whatever that means, in his sexuality. This is mildly interesting, and may explain his sublimated drive, as it did for other great teachers and heroes of their age, such as Lewis Carroll and J.M. Barrie. Any serious biography or biopic deals with their private as well as their public parts. But it should also make clear that what matters today is what they made, not simply and sexually what made them.



Not blinded by scientists

A 'cure' for mortality is very high on the agenda, but if we knew the answer, would we want to live for ever?

Bernard Levin

I am notoriously gullible when it comes to science, but there are limits to my credulity. When I saw a headline — a small headline, to be sure, but a headline nevertheless — reading "Water is found on the Sun", I took out my trusty credule, ready to hit someone with it. Our science editor tells me that the surface of the Sun has a temperature of approximately 6,000C ("Who hath measured the ground?"), so I decided that any boffins who wish to slake their thirst on the Sun should also wear light clothing.

I jest, but that is only to annoy the sillier scientists, and you wouldn't believe how silly those can be. They sometimes write to me, and can hardly hold the pen with rage to see me with thumb to nose (hardly scientific behaviour, don't you think?).

But, as I say, that is only to cause annoyance. No one, surely, can contemplate the wonders of the heavens and of the deeps without feeling awe; well, so it is with science. Many people make the mistake of believing that some of the more weird experiments that scientists carry out are not only otiose but absurd. As a matter of fact, that is true, and many a taxpayer gets hot under the collar (though not quite 6,000C) when he sees a man in a white coat, presumably sane, measuring the length of the average cat's whiskers. I sometimes wonder whether, if Professor Doll had never come upon his truly epoch-making discovery — that smoking is dangerous — the world might be just as well off, or even — perish the thought — very slightly better.

There is a dark side to science, and many scientists acknowledge that darkness, which takes the form of "If it can be done, it must be done". When Professor Christiaan Barnard did the first heart transplant in 1967, the world was stunned, and he was hailed as not only one of the greatest scientists in all history, but almost as a man who had found the way to abolish death. His first patient, Louis Washkansky, lived only 18 days, but by then the sluice gates had been flung open. As I recall, the only voice raised against the hero was that of Malcolm Muggeridge; who will now say that Muggeridge was wrong? How much knowledge, effort, money and bed-space was — still is — being wasted on the glamorous successes of science, instead of the dozens of unglamorous hip-replacements that knowledge, effort, money and bed-space need? This is the red rag of sense to the bull of science, but it still rankles, and it is still true.

But pause for a moment with those words, "Barnard had found the way to abolish death". They are not nearly as ridiculous as they should be. Deep down in the thoughts of millions, and not only in the thoughts of the old, there lingers a belief — not spoken, of course — that the abolition of death is coming closer, and many are found looking over that non-existent horizon to see the Sun rise over eternal life. Well, Barnard has shown the way, hasn't he? So the next step must be living for ever, mustn't it? No matter that the only thing every human creature without exception must endure (and every animal for that matter, though they don't make such a fuss about it) is death. Say it again: "If it can be done, it must be done."

But it *has* been done; it was done some 300 years ago, in the ingenious mind of Jonathan Swift. Swift called up a people, the Struldbrugs, who did indeed live for ever, but there was a catch in it (of course there always is), for the Struldbrugs had to live with all the infirmities of body and mind, which went on getting worse, becoming more and more terrible, so terrible that they prayed for death, and were refused it.

There are real Struldbrugs. Two Chinese refugees, who had escaped to America, testified that the Chinese Government removes organs from executed prisoners and sells them for use in medical transplants, which of course is nothing compared with the more recent revelations of the Chinese "dying rooms" in which superfluous babies are left unfed and unattended in their filth until they die.

I feel a little queasy: doctors, of course, are trained not to be queasy, but before I come back to the best in science, may I pause for a moment and ask the scientists what they think about that slogan "If it can be done..." What proportion of our scientists live by that rubric? Do these applaud the Chinese spare parts system? After all, these people are dead, and now have no need of bodies.

I know it is tiresome, but I must ask: where does science stop, and "If it can be done, it must be done" begin? More tiresomely still, if the scientists say that there can be no such division, how does it come about that ordinary people, with no scientific knowledge, can quite easily understand the question?

Enough of interrogations: let us look at the bright side of science, and as it happens, we have a shaft of light so powerful that it would illuminate most of the dark side. Did you read the story of Professer Cano of California and the bacteria, patient creatures that they are? Patient indeed, because if Professor Cano is right, the bacteria — live bacteria — have been asleep for upwards to 30 million years, and this is the hour in which the doors are flung open, and the bacteria, shaking their heads and stretching, emerge.

Thirty million years. To make the story even more marvellous, we learn that the little creatures slept through the centuries in tropical amber. Amber itself is a mysterious thing; mysterious enough, anyway, to find that a ball of amber (perhaps in a bracelet or necklace) has turned the tables, and trapped a fly or even a bee.

Already, Professor Cano has been under attack: he is not denounced as a fraud, but those scientists who cannot believe the Professor's trouvaille argue that some modern bacteria must have got into his, by contamination. The Prof denies that, and insists that he was working in the most meticulous conditions. I hope he is proved right, and I think most people hope with me.

Why? Why do people — very much including me — want to believe that the Prof is right? It is, I am sure, the feeling of awe, a sensation that has been withering away for a good many years now, and will die entirely unless there is something or someone to breathe life into it. Professor Cano has done precisely that; he may put it in different words, but I am certain that he walks with a spring, his eyes glow, and he sings in the bath. Not because if he is right he will get into the science books, even the encyclopaedias (though it seems that these are disappearing fast), but because he has tasted awe, and that taste lasts for ever.

With the warmth of Professor Cano wrapped round me, I am almost willing to believe that there is water on the Sun, but I don't need to, because once again, science has come up with something I can understand, or can almost understand. There is a tussle in the undergrowth: it seems that scientists have been trying to discover when the first "men" walked the Earth. The boffins worked with chromosomes, which are beyond me, but it seems that we are all descended from African ancestors (one in the eye for whitey) who lived between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago, which rules out Homo erectus.

Again, we do not need to be experts in these matters; all we need is awe, and those thousands roll out to greet us. Never mind the brontosaurus and his cousins; something that we can recognise has been examined by science, and however primitive those ancestors of ours, we are assured that our forebears were not fishes or snakes or, for that matter, platypuses; we, however rudimentary we were, had somewhere in us, Homo sapiens.

Most of us are ignorant of science, but that is not entirely our fault; in their hearts the scientists despise us. Not just because we are ignorant, but because they are arrogant. When I wrote, earlier in this column, about the priorities we think vital, you brushed us away as though we were idiots. Come — where is there a leading scientist who will say clearly that it would have been better for the world if Christiaan Barnard had never been born, and his invention never thought of?

We cannot leave it there; happily we do not need to. A last item catches my eye, and the scientists are lining up. It seems that bees existed before flowers, but how can that be? Well, if you give us the answer, we shall give you the awe.

Stemming the tide of humanity

Nicholas Baker on what he could not say as minister for immigration

More and more people in the world are on the move. Sixty million people for example, including returning residents, are coming into Britain this year. Most of them move temporarily as visitors, but others seek to move permanently as a result of persecution in their home country or simply for a better life. The two species of movement present the attractive rich countries of Western Europe in particular with a serious challenge. Every country wants to facilitate genuine visitors, business travel and tourism, and cut down border formalities. But there have to be serious checks on permanent movements of population to avoid congestion in rich countries, absolute decline in poor countries and a serious threat to good race relations in countries such as Britain.

In Britain we have taken steps to facilitate temporary and beneficial flows of population and established immigration control on permanent flows which, while never free from difficult cases, are generally seen as tight, fair and firm. However, clandestine and bogus asylum claims are now threatening the control regime. So, if we are to preserve the beneficial flows, protect genuine refugees and our own good race and community relations, what needs to be done?

First, we must reduce the magnetic attention of Britain. On a tour in Africa last month, of four countries in ten days to develop and explain our policies to attack these problems and secure co-operation from other governments, I was struck by the united chorus of my opposite numbers. You are wrong-headed ("crazy" was the word used by one minister) to proffer in Britain a prospect of jobs and welfare benefits to would-be migrants. Ninety per cent of income support, which we currently allow asylum seekers, may not be much to a family in Britain, but to an African on a below subsistence diet it seems — especially when the costs of living in Britain are ignored — like a fortune. We should seek to deter this traffic, rather than encourage it. The measures announced by Michael Howard in the summer to secure the vigilance of different government departments make obvious sense, and Peter Lilley's restriction of benefit for asylum seekers, announced last week, will go a long way to redress the position.

Secondly, we need to attack the rackets. There are rural villages near Peking where illiterate peasants are being sold the line that the streets of Britain are paved with gold; that in return for their life savings (or an IOU which will take years to pay off), transport can be arranged in the back of a cross-Channel lorry, forged documents supplied and even work provided in a Lincolnhire field for £1.50 an hour to enable the debt to be repaid. The remedies we have against this evil trade are producing some impressive successes but could be beefed up still more. The alert attention of individual citizens can do a great deal to expose the racketeers.

Thirdly, the control system needs tightening. It cannot be in the long-term interests of asylum seekers, whether their claim is genuine or bogus, for the legal process to be allowed to drag on for two years or more before an appeal or judicial review ends the matter. And having lost their case, as well over 90 per cent of asylum applicants presently do; they should be removed, pomptly. Asylum applications ran at 4,000 in 1988 and are currently at more than 40,000. It is against this background that Michael Howard's forthcoming package of measures should be judged.

Fourthly, there is a European aspect to the problem because of similar experience in most European countries. If we are to avoid an unholy kind of competition we have an interest in seeing that controls in Europe are not greatly different from each other and that ours are no less firm than others. Since Germany tightened its controls two years ago, its asylum applications have gone down; this has also happened elsewhere in Europe, while numbers coming to Britain are going up. So a measure of European co-operation is in the interests of all EU countries. Britain and Ireland are the only countries in the EU which do not have criminal penalties for those who employ illegal immigrants. Whether the Schengen countries succeed in maintaining effective controls along one border round them all must be doubtful. The Prime Minister has made it quite clear that Britain's frontier controls are not negotiable.

Urgent action is required and further immigration measures will be necessary if the population flows continue. All countries, rich and poor, have a strong national self-interest in good, orderly government and freedom from persecution of other countries. In Africa I visited Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, where recent improvements in democracy, human rights and sensible economic management give some cause for hope. But that has hardly been true in Africa in recent years. And unless the citizens of poor countries in Africa and elsewhere receive the benefit of uncorrupt governments, democratic processes, the rule of law and strong economic development then the flow of economic migrants to Western Europe will continue. Time is not on our side.

The author, MP for Dorset North, was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Home Office.

Into the fire

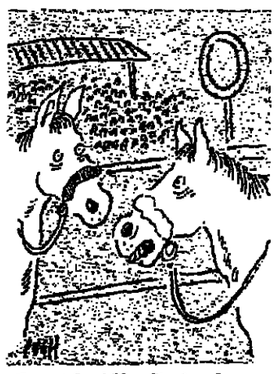
ONE of Britain's finest chefs has been forced to resign from France's most prestigious culinary organisation after allegations in a television documentary that he was violent in his kitchens. John Burton-Race, the owner of a two-star Michelin restaurant in Berkshire who was voted Britain's Chef of the Year in July, resigned from the *Académie Culinaire de France* yesterday evening.

"After a meeting of the academy, it was unanimously agreed that the behaviour shown in the programme *The Big Story: violence in the kitchen* was totally unacceptable," said a spokesman. "And it has been agreed to accept John Burton-Race's resignation from the academy."

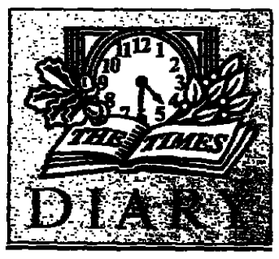
With hidden cameras, the Channel 4 documentary showed Burton-Race's sous-chef reduce a young French chef to tears. More sensational allegations were made by former workers at Burton-Race's L'Ortolan restaurant, which has two Michelin stars. One chef alleged that he saw Mr Burton-Race throw a cast-iron saucepan across the room at a young kitchen-hand.

Another target of the programme, Marco Pierre White, was alleged to have punched one chef for using the wrong colour garnish and kicked a kitchen worker. Neither Burton-Race nor Marco Pierre White, who has three Michelin stars but is not a member of the academy, was available for comment.

● *Spare a thought for Jiri Belohlavek, renowned conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra who was mugged in broad daylight outside the BBC in Manchester by a man brandishing a pair of scissors. His assailant made off with his passport, air ticket home and diary containing all his appointments until the year 2000.*



Forget the 4.30 — I'm turning on Blackpool's lights for Red Rum



Wheely fast

LATEST recruit to the inline skating lobby is Caroline Waldegrave, an exuberant cook and co-owner of Leith's restaurant in London's Notting Hill. While her aristocratic husband spends dignified lunch hours in the environs of the Treasury, she whizzes around Hyde Park on skates trailed by her spaniel.

"It's tremendous fun and you cover much more ground in a lunch hour than you would walking," she said. "But they're making it more difficult by putting down gravel so I'm forced to go on the pavements now." Joining the likes of the Duchess of Kent on her new blades hasn't all been plain rolling, however. This week she is sporting a sizeable bandage on her wrist after falling over.

● *The Prisons Inspector Judge Stephen Tumim, who tore into Michael Howard earlier this week, pulled no punches at a Folio Society debate with Jeremy Isaacs at Lincoln's Inn on Wednesday night. "We can hardly doubt that our lives would be enhanced with a few assassinations of politicians," he said.*

In traction

UNHAPPILY, Sir Kingsley Amis was unable to attend the Foyles lunch in honour of his latest novel, *The Biographer's Moustache*. He is languishing in University College Hospital nursing some crushed vertebrae, but his skills for mimicry were fondly recalled by the chairman, writer and historian Paul Johnson.

"I think his best imitation is the one he does of the engine of an antiquated Belgian truck starting up in the Ardennes campaign of 1944," he said. Alan Coren begged to differ: "I prefer his imitation of a Yugoslav Jeep, including four Yugoslavs."

● *The Marquess of Bath was among those cavorting at Peter Stringfellow's club for his 55th birthday bash on Wednesday night. But another furry face was missing. Stringfellow's white Persian cat, Cecil, was neutered recently and he now prefers Cruise, the gay nightclub next door.*

Shore thing

SIR ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER has built a career on musical spectaculars. Now he has decided to stage a minimalist production of a new musical in an English seaside resort. Fed up with extravagance and huge overheads, he has written *By Jeeves* with Alan Ayckbourn to open at the playwright's Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough next summer.

"It is disgracefully, obscenely expensive to stage a musical these days," he said yesterday at the launch of productions that the National Youth Musical Theatre are taking to Broadway. "The new show will have no sets whatsoever, no costumes and few props."

Mantle asylum

THAT dignified repository in Oxford, the Ashmolean Museum, has been besieged with Disney fans ever since the release of the new film *Pocahontas*. Hordes of the little beggars have been dragging their reluctant parents to see a deerskin mantle thought to have belonged to the heroine's father, Powhatan.



Pocahontas: old cloak

The senior assistant keeper, Arthur Macgregor, says the mantle is "probably the most important North American relic to survive anywhere". He is digging in for a new onslaught: *Pocahontas* has just opened at a cinema opposite the museum.

P·H·S

SPRUNG FROM JAIL

Howard survives, but so do the problems of the Prison Service

Michael Howard's fiery exchange with Jack Straw across the dispatch box yesterday was a storm of sound and fury which will have signified little to most voters. Not since the Westland crisis has the fate of a minister appeared to hinge on so technical an issue. Clear enough were the passions of the Home Secretary, his opposite number and — towards the end of the battle — Tony Blair. The problems of the Prison Service, as outlined in this week's Learmont report, remain, of course, no closer to resolution.

Since the dismissal of Derek Lewis as Director-General of the Prison Service, two entirely different interpretations of the Learmont affair have emerged. The case against the Home Secretary was encapsulated in Judge Stephen Tumim's claim that the division in the Prison Service between "operational" and "policy" decisions is bogus. Mr Lewis's writ against Mr Howard for wrongful dismissal hinges on the same argument. The Home Secretary, it is alleged, intervened on a daily basis in the management of the Prison Service, put pressure on Mr Lewis to attack the Prison Officers' Association and interfered in the running of Whitemoor jail — charges which Mr Howard denies.

The Home Secretary is also said to have instructed Mr Lewis to suspend John Marriott, the governor of Parkhurst, on January 10 and to do so immediately. It is further alleged that the Home Secretary lied to the Home Affairs Committee on January 25, when he said that he "did not need" to suggest the removal of Mr Marriott to Mr Lewis, this being an operational decision for the Director-General himself to take. This was the crux of Mr Straw's attack on Mr Howard.

The Home Secretary slipped under the wire, just. He was able to argue, quoting from the Prison Service's guidelines, that the removal of prison governors is a matter for the Director-General. At the same time, the Home Secretary is entitled to be consulted on such questions when they have a bearing on public confidence in the Prison Service. Mr Howard readily admitted that he had proposed the suspension of Mr Marriott. He was also able to point out that this proposal was rejected and the governor merely moved to another post.

Less clear-cut was the Home Secretary's answer to Mr Straw's second main line of attack: had he insisted that Mr Marriott be moved immediately? Mr Howard's defence — that he had not himself inserted the word "today" in the official statement — was barely adequate. More persuasive was his point that Mr Lewis had, eight days later, endorsed the "immediate" removal of Mr Marriott. The House of Commons is scarcely the ideal forum in which to establish what happened at a particular meeting nine months ago. It was always going to be difficult to prove that what Mr Howard described as legitimate consultation with Mr Lewis amounted to unpleasant intimidation.

In the end, it was political reality rather than constitutional nicety which settled the matter. As a man of the Right who has been utterly loyal to the Prime Minister, Mr Howard's position is strong as long as the Government survives. Last week he gave the Tory party the muscular law and order speech it wanted to hear. Yesterday he was rewarded by a series of aggressive interventions from right-wing MPs seeking to fluster Mr Straw. The Labour spokesman's confidence improved as the debate progressed. But there was little prospect that he would undermine the Home Secretary's support on his own benches.

Mr Howard even seemed to enjoy himself yesterday. He turned an attack on his competence into an attack on Labour's fitness to govern. But his bravura performance could not conceal all the political damage that he has suffered this week. The questions of accountability and managerial competence in the Prison Service which have underpinned this crisis are starker than ever. The Home Secretary has proved himself a gritty parliamentarian; but bigger challenges than that lie ahead.

SHADOW BOXING

Mr Blair should have more discretion to appoint his team

The most reactionary members of the Labour Party now are not its activists, not even its affiliated trade union leaders: they are its representatives in Parliament. If Tony Blair needed reminding of this, it was confirmed in the elections to the Shadow Cabinet. The revolt against Mr Blair came not from the Left but from the relics of old Labour, determined to wreak their revenge on young modernisers in the image of the Labour leader.

The result was a stitch-up reminiscent of the old days of Labour and trade union deals. Two second-rate men managed to remain in the Shadow Cabinet and a third rejoined. Tom Clarke's re-entry can hardly be said to have been on merit. Ron Davies's promotion to fourth place owes less to his skills than to relentless lobbying. It is extraordinary that David Clark remains at Defence when men such as Alistair Darling and Brian Wilson perform so much better.

Luckily for Mr Blair, there are enough low-ranking jobs in the Shadow Cabinet to scatter around these people. And at the top, he still has some strong performers. David Blunkett has impressed at Education, and deserves to add Employment to his role. Harriet Harman promises to do better at Health than at the Treasury and Employment. Chris Smith, meanwhile, has the intelligence and toughness to tackle social security reform. Margaret Beckett will be able to do little harm at Trade and Industry; at least she works well with the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown. Clare Short has a powerful political presence and well deserves her place in the team.

But it remains absurd that Mr Blair should have to accept whichever politicians are thrown up by the horse-dealing between factions and regions that takes place each year. And it is demeaning for the prospective shadow ministers to have to grovel to their parliamentary colleagues in order to solicit their support. It is hardly common practice for an organisation to allow its top managers to be elected. Why should the Labour Party do so?

Mr Blair is said to be reluctant to try to force through changes to the system before the next election. If he won power, he could discard any poor performers from his first Cabinet and thereafter would have as much discretion as any Tory Prime Minister. But earlier this summer he managed easily to have the rules changed to allow the Chief Whip to be appointed rather than elected: there is support for further change.

Mr Blair still needs to fight hard in the next 18 months to have a chance of winning the next election. He will be doing so with one hand tied behind his back and will be trying to ensure that the brightest junior frontbench spokesmen win more attention than their less talented seniors. Mr Blair should press next year for a reform of the system, if he is not prepared to contemplate total abolition.

For most of the past few decades, elections to the Shadow Cabinet have been for only 12 members. The leader of the day had the discretion to appoint the other nine. The numbers have recently been increased for various reasons, not least the need to have a quota for women. Mr Blair should seek a return to the old days. His best and brightest women no longer need the support of a quota; they will be returned on merit. The less impressive, such as Ann Taylor and Joan Lestor, do him no credit anyway. If the Parliamentary Labour Party wants to win the next general election, it must allow its leader the ammunition to do so.

MARCO POLO'S CHINESE CHUKKA

Did the Venetian merchant really make it all up?

Ask a keen schoolchild who Marco Polo was and, if you are lucky, you will get the following succinct answer: "Marco Polo was a Venetian merchant who travelled overland to China in the 13th century and served the Emperor Kublai Khan for over a decade before returning to Europe by sea." Very good, a teacher should purr in response. But if a certain Frances Wood has her way, the poor child will have to be stiffly rebuked — and comprehensively re-educated.

Dr Wood, head of the Chinese department at the British Library, believes that the *Travels of Marco Polo* are a pile of old chopsticks, and that the Venetian who gave us the gift of pasta did not even set medieval foot in China. A remorseless revisionist, she argues in a forthcoming book that Signor Polo's fabled journey was no more than that — a fable — confected when he was imprisoned for two years in a Genoese jail.

Few of us, however, will want to believe her. And why should we? As our precious pool of certitudes shrinks ever smaller with each new book, the loss of Marco Polo would be a disturbing one. And who would be forced to tumble next, once the irreverent floodgates open? Are we to be told that Hillary and Tensing did not climb Mount Everest, that Christopher Columbus only dreamt of America, that William of Orange was actually from Essex?

Dr Wood points out that the *Travels* make no mention of such obvious Chinese emblems as the Great Wall, or tea, or that society's ideographic script. "So where are the holiday snaps then, eh, Marco?" she appears almost to ask. But why should these omissions matter? Signor Polo did not set out to write the medieval equivalent of a *Financial Times* special report.

The *Travels* were a more sensual affair, the product of medieval mnemonics. Signor Polo was at once expansive and selective in what he remembered. How could he not be? Does not jail do that to all of us? And most shrewdly, he caught the mood of his credulous times, when a popular hunger for romance was matched only by the narrowness of lives which people generally led.

At a time when Genoa was a foreign place to the Venetians, think of the swank a man could have if he had been to Samarkand, Peking and the Nicobar Islands. Can one blame Signor Polo for hamming it up a bit? And if he did not glowingly write of tea — or even refer to it at all — it is not because he never went to China. Has it occurred to Dr Wood that our bustling explorer might have preferred something stronger?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Portillo's 'Aunt Sally' on defence

From Lord Plumb, MEP for Cotswolds (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Your editorial, "Santer's error" (October 16), purports to show that Michael Portillo's Aunt Sally of a single European army is actually a real threat, based on "a proposal which has been given serious cross-party consideration throughout the Continent".

Whilst there are certainly some politicians on both left and right who want to see the EU endowed with a direct defence capability — just as Churchill proposed a European army in 1950 — this is certainly not the mainstream view of European governments currently preparing for next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC).

The Maastricht Treaty itself talks about the emergence of a "common defence" in Europe, a goal John Major endorsed. Today this is interpreted as meaning moves to make the Western European Union and the European Union co-terminous. The Reflection Group preparing for the IGC stated last month that "national sovereignty remains the basic point of reference" in the European defence field, with unanimity needing to remain "the rule".

Your editorial claims that the European People's Party — of whose parliamentary group British Conservative MEPs are allied members — supports an EU defence capability with nuclear weapons, where decisions would be taken by qualified majority vote (QMV).

It is true that the EPP has traditionally argued for a common European defence, with greater use of QMV. However, any nuclear component would certainly be subject to the agreement of Europe's existing nuclear powers. I see no suggestion of anything else from German CDU/CSU or French UDF colleagues, who sit with us in the same group in the European Parliament.

In your desire to bolster Mr Portillo's credibility, you overstate the risks of a European army being seriously on the agenda. It is not. But then the Defence Secretary would not be the first warrior to tilt at windmills, and probably with as little success.

Yours etc,
HENRY PLUMB,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
October 18.

From Lord Buxton

Sir, What Michael Portillo said at Blackpool, and how he said it, is clearly a momentous issue.

But surely the most staggering aspect, beyond belief to the ordinary citizen, is a Secretary of State for Defence being publicly dressed down by an unelected official of limited experience from abroad (report, October 16).

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
BUXTON,
House of Lords.
October 18.

A Tory wife

From Mr Denis Watkins

Sir, The perfect antidote to the strident posturing on display all week at the Conservative Party conference was provided by the warmth and generosity of Mrs Gillian Howarth ("I was not a good Tory wife, but I was loyal to Alan", October 13).

Yours sincerely,
DENIS WATKINS,
Ty Newydd,
Velindre, Crymych, Dyfed.
October 14.

From Mrs Valerie Hill

Sir, Just for the record, contrary to her own opinion Gilly Howarth was an excellent "Tory wife".

She was swiftly elected to be President of our Conservative Women's Constituency Committee, a post she held for 12 years. Every February she gave up a precious day at half-term, in spite of having four schoolchildren at home, to come and preside at our AGM.

Her visits were always a breath of fresh air, and an inspiration to us. She attended an endless round of bazaars and functions, and always executed her duties with grace and charm, and a winning smile.

We shall miss her.

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE HILL,
(Branch chairman,
Stratford-upon-Avon constituency,
1985-89),
Flax Hill, Ufton Fields,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
October 13.

Use of shock tactics by charities

From Mr John F. Gray

Sir, Matthew Parris rails (article, October 16) against the slick image-makers and spin-doctoring PRs that now seem to be infiltrating the homely and amateurish world of charities. How much better that charities should know their place — a small group of voluntary do-gooders cajoling tuppence out of him in a genial manner at a village fair.

Mr Parris needs to wake up to the 20th century. Charities are big business and have a responsibility to their many donors to market themselves as professionally as possible. We would be failing our supporters and those we seek to help if we did not make a return on every penny invested either by making a major impact on key decisionmakers or raising more money.

Of course charities should be extremely cautious in not exploiting or humiliating those people or issues they claim to serve. The Red Cross believes that its professional fundraising, advertising and PR techniques should never jeopardise the dignity of the individual. We thank Mr Parris for reminding us of that, but please don't send us back to the dark ages. Professionalism in the charity world should be encouraged, not criticised.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN F. GRAY
(Director of Public Affairs),
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.
October 16.

From Ms Rachel Ward

Sir, I share some of Matthew Parris's unease about charities' need to portray horror in order to fundraise. It may be, however, that constant media coverage of atrocities has been responsible for raising the public's shock threshold — the extent of it is far in excess of anything a responsible charity could afford.

We take our relationships with individual donors very seriously — they are our major source of income. They are intelligent people and we treat them accordingly by involving them in our work rather than treating them like a cash machine which responds to the "shock" button.

Blaming the charity which publicises a distressing issue is a clear example of shooting the messenger. It used to be that charities were too political — now we are too explicit. Tell that to the 65 governments which tortured our clients.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL WARD
(Head of Fundraising),
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture,
96-98 Grafton Road, NW5.
October 16.

From the Executive Director, Feed the Children

Sir, Matthew Parris presents a timely warning: if charities appear to be out to shock, "leapfrogging" each other to gain attention, then indeed we will undermine our mission.

That mission should be to convey information about problems and their resolution and to encourage a response in the most cost-effective way.

The problem is how to gain people's attention in an image-frenzied culture. How do we stop people in their tracks with posters, advertisements, displays and literature without using the shock tactic?

Understatement does not work, but making people feel disgusted won't raise money either. The success of an appeal depends on the cause itself, and on confidence that the charity can deliver results.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. W. GRUBB,
Executive Director,
Feed the Children (Europe),
82 Caversham Road,
Reading, Berkshire.
October 16.

Raising U-boats

From the Chairman, the Historic Warship Preservation Society

Sir, The news that more than 100 U-boats from the Second World War are to be salvaged from the Atlantic (*News in brief*, October 16) raises an opportunity to do more than just demolish them for scrap. The Germans themselves have raised a U-boat and it is now on display in a museum in Kiel.

We should seriously consider preserving at least one U-boat in the UK, possibly at the Submarine Museum at Gosport in Hampshire. Also we might offer one or more of the salvaged U-boats to the Germans for preservation in the name of international friendship and co-operation.

We have preserved very little Royal Naval equipment from the Second World War. Just three significant warships remain: the cruiser *HMS Belfast* in London, the destroyer *HMS Cavalier* in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the submarine *HMS Alliance* in Gosport.

This society believes that we should expand the collection of these warships before the last few in service around the world are scrapped.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS TANKARD,
Chairman, Historic Warship Preservation Society,
8 Fair Park View,
Mitchell, Newquay, Cornwall.
October 16.

Exam comparisons

From Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Pamela Robinson

Sir, Far from "seeming to undermine" our report, *Co-educational and Single-sex Schooling*, Ofsted's analyses (details, October 16) actually confirm it. While it is true that "girls-only schools score best results regardless of class" overall, when similar types of schools are compared, the apparent superiority disappears.

Ofsted's figures show that the average GCSE points scores of girls in comprehensive schools in 1994 were: girls-only without sixth form 31.7; co-ed without sixth form 33.3; girls-only with sixth form 35.9; co-ed with sixth form 35.7.

The comparison on which your headline, "Boys ranked below mixed intake", is based, not only fails to distinguish between grammar and comprehensive schools, but combines the results, very different from each other, of girls and boys in co-ed schools.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITHERS,
PAMELA A. ROBINSON,
The University of Manchester,
School of Education,
Centre for Education & Employment Research,
Oxford Road, Manchester 13.
October 16.

Angling under fire

From Mr M. P. McNally

Sir, I welcome the announcement (report, October 10; letter, October 17) by the National Federation of Anglers, the National Federation of Sea Anglers and the Salmon and Trout Association that they now recognise the British Field Sports Society as the unifying body lobbying on their behalf in the "collective defence and promotion of country sports".

Any doubts on the part of anglers that throwing their hats into the ring with the hunting and shooting fraternity might be counterproductive are dangerously misplaced. It is foolish and naive to assume that, if hunting with hounds and shooting were to be brought to an end by legislation, fishing in all its forms would somehow be safe from the attention of animal rights activists and politicians.

Hunt saboteurs are ready to extend their priorities, and the sabotaging of fishing matches and physical attacks on fishermen are becoming increasingly common.

The Labour Party actively supports angling at present but in my view this has nothing to do with concern for animal welfare and everything to do with cynical political expedience. There are four million anglers in this country and the Labour Party has no desire to lose their votes.

If those opposed to angling managed to swing public opinion with a publicity campaign as effective as that already mounted against hunting and shooting, political parties could well consider that the electoral balance of convenience lay in favour of a fishing ban.

It is time for fishermen to recognise that precisely the same issues — moral and scientific as well as environmental and economic — apply to fishing as to other field sports, and to join the struggle to defend our way of life against those who are too ignorant and prejudiced to understand it.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL McNALLY,
Knights (solicitors),
Regency House, 25 High Street,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Labour promises

From Mr Peter Mercer

Sir, Is it not rather odd that one of the few specific promises in Mr Blair's vision of a new Britain is the commitment to maintain the public ownership of "our railways, built up over the years"? Apart from the evident nostalgia, were not these railways of "ours" the creations of the purest form of Victorian entrepreneurial capitalism?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MERCER
(Editor),
Industry and European Market,
3 St Faiths Lane, Norwich, Norfolk.
October 13.

From Councillor Susan Brown

Sir, John Patten was quoted in your Diary of October 13 as saying he will be giving up his seat (Oxfordshire West and Abingdon) to an older man.

As a young woman who will be standing for Labour against whichever old man the Conservative Party can find to stand in that constituency, I beg to differ.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN BROWN
(Prospective parliamentary candidate),
Oxford West and Abingdon Labour Party,
3 Allam Street, Oxford.
October 16.

The common touch

From Mr Robert Freer

Sir, As Parliament reassembles politicians might wish to reflect that Kipling's *If* is remembered (reports and article, October 13) partly because he achieved what he had to say in fewer than 300 words, almost all of which are single syllables.

Yours faithfully,
R. FREER,
14 Alleyn Crescent, SE21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Inadequacies of divorce reforms

From Mr Colin Hart

Sir, Your leading article, "Grounds for divorce reform" (October 19), admits that every previous change in the divorce law has made divorce easier, but claims that this will not happen with the Lord Chancellor's proposals (White Paper details, April 28).

It is the Law Commission which has dreamt up the present proposals — the very same body which devised the last reforms, which managed to double the divorce rate within the first two years of operation of the 1969 Divorce Reform Act. Since then the trend has been ever upwards.

The Government maintains that the reforms will have a broadly neutral effect. The reforms deserve condemnation on that ground alone, for there is no commitment to lower the divorce rate.

I challenge anyone to show me that the introduction of "no fault" divorce has ever lowered the divorce rate. In fact the research evidence points in the opposite direction. One study of the introduction of no-fault divorce laws in the United States found very strong evidence of an increase in the divorce rate in eight states and lesser evidence of an increase in another eight. The average increase was 20-25 per cent in these states.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN HART (Director),
The Christian Institute,
Eslington House, Eslington Terrace,
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.
October 19.

Reduced to rubble

From Sir Clive Sinclair

Sir, Your report today of the demolition of an £86,000 Leicestershire cottage restored by Mr William Pinckavant and his son displays a mean-minded arrogance on the part of Charnwood Borough Council that beggars belief. The restoration was clearly to everyone's advantage.

The council have destroyed a valuable property out of sheer spite, arising out of a planning dispute. These people, who should be our servants, have made themselves our masters. Who can call these monsters to account?

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE SINCLAIR,
18 Shepherd House,
5 Shepherd Street, W1.
October 19.

Embassies and trade

From Sir Denis Wright

Sir, Sir Horace Phillips (letter, October 12) comments on Mr Robin Cook's idea (report, October 6) of appointing businessmen as ambassadors. It is worth recalling that towards the end of 1948 the then President of the Board of Trade, Harold Wilson, launched a much publicised dollar export drive in which businessmen were to play a big part. To this end the US was divided into four zones, each under the newly created post of Superintending Trade Consul supported by commercial advisers drawn from the business world.

The scheme was not a success and has not been repeated — the performance of the commercial advisers, difficult to recruit in the first place, being singularly disappointing. My experience both as one of the original Superintending Trade Consuls and later as an ambassador is that, as Sir Horace states, there are limits to what an ambassador and his staff can and cannot do in promoting exports.

There is no reason to think that a businessman would be any more effective than a career diplomat in working within those limits.

Yours truly,
DENIS WRIGHT,
Duck Bottom,
Flint Street, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
October 13.

Bar to priesthood

From Canon Godfrey I. Hirst

Sir, There is no need for coeliac priests to forgo the consecrated host, as Mr W. J. Warnes suggests (letter, October 17). The Poor Clares in York provide gluten-free wafers in a distinctive shape, in order to avoid this problem for lay and clergy alike.

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY HIRST,
The Vicarage, Church Road, Lytham,
Lytham St Annes, Lancashire.
October 17.

No doubting Thomas

From Mrs Moira Percival

Sir, It is hardly surprising that Thomas is the most popular boy's name in recent years (report, October 18). There is a direct correlation with the "good guy" of the times, who has upheld moral standards, overcome the bully and been perceived as a role model to which any new parent would wish their son to aspire.

He is not a royal, a politician, an entertainer or a captain of industry — he is the hero of the times, Thomas the Tank Engine.

Peep, Peep,
MOIRA PERCIVAL,
41 Bankhall Lane,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.
October 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 19: The President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Monsieur Jacques de Larosière) this morning called on The President of the Republic of Finland.

The President and Mrs Ahtisaari afterwards visited the Finnish Church, Albion Street, London SE16, were received by the Pastor of the Finnish Church in London (the Reverend Leo Norja) and the Mayor of Southwark (Councillor Aubyn Graham) and met members of the Finnish Church community.

Later, having been received at Scandic Pier by Mr David Jeffery (Chief Executive, Port of London Authority), The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari embarked in the Port of London Authority barge Royal Nore and proceeded downriver to Greenwich before returning upriver to disembark at Lambeth Pier.

The Queen's Bargemaster and Watermen were on duty. The President and Mrs Ahtisaari this afternoon attended a Reception and Luncheon given by the Finnish Community at the Banqueting House.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present. The President of the Republic of Finland later visited the Finnish Institute, Eagle Street, London WC1, and was received by the Chairman of the Council (Professor Kanko Sipponen).

His Excellency afterwards visited the British Broadcasting Corporation, Bush House, London WC2, and was received by the Chairman (Mr Marmaduke Hussey).

The President of the Republic of Finland subsequently visited Cable News Network, Rothborne Place, London W1.

His Excellency this evening visited British Broadcasting Corporation, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12.

Mrs Ahtisaari this evening visited the Palace of Westminster, was received by Sir Patrick Cormack MP (Chairman, British-Finnish Parliamentary Group) and, subsequently, visited the Deputy Speaker at Speaker's House.

His Excellency Señor Washington Ashwell was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Paraguay to the Court of St James's.

Señora de Ashwell was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Right Reverend Colin James (formerly Bishop of Winchester) was received by The Queen and delivered up to Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Prelate of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

His Excellency Mr James Thomas was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda in London.

Mrs Douglas Phillips was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Lady Mary Mumford was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey to mark the completion of the restoration of the Abbey and were received at the West Door by the Dean (the Very Reverend Michael Mayne).

Her Majesty unveiled a new commemorative window and afterwards, with His Royal Highness, attended a reception in Little Cloisters and met the Westminster Abbey Trustees.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained by The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari this evening at a Banquet at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member and Past President, Marylebone Cricket Club, this morning opened the new Indoor Cricket School at Lord's Ground, London NW8.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this morning attended the annual conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this afternoon attended the launch of "Cutting Crimes in Rural Areas: a Guide for Parish Councils" at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

The Princess Royal later attended the HM Customs and Excise Drugs Awareness Day at the Custom House, Lower Thames Street, London SE1.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the Trafalgar Night Dinner at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 19: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a presentation by Actionaid at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, later viewed designs for the Ashmolean Humanities Research Centre at the Institute of Architecture, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, London NW1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon received Mr Peter Ellwood (Chief Executive, Trustee Savings Bank) to discuss the "Gifts in Kind" initiative.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later gave a Reception at St James's Palace for those who have agreed to design decorative masks to be auctioned on behalf of the Trust's Masks '96 initiative.

The Prince of Wales this evening gave a reception for the Temenos Academy at St James's Palace.

Later His Royal Highness was entertained at a banquet given by The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was entertained this evening at a Banquet given by The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari, at the Finnish Residence, 14 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 19: The Duke of Kent this morning visited BWD Rensburg, Meadowhall House, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire (Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Neill).

His Royal Highness later visited 3 Star Engineering, President Park, Savile Street, Sheffield.

The Duke of Kent this afternoon opened Wharf House, Victoria Quays, Sheffield and visited Bridon Wire, Carr Hill, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, President, NCH Action for Children, this evening attended a "Children for Children" Concert, Truro Cathedral, Truro, Cornwall.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK

October 19: Princess Alexander, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, today visited the Chobe National Park, Botswana.

Service

British Maritime Charitable Foundation

Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Honorary President of the British Maritime Charitable Foundation, was present at the annual thanksgiving service held yesterday at All Hallows-by-the-Tower for the lives of "those who lost their lives at sea and have no known grave" whose names are inscribed in the memorial book. The Rev Peter Delaney officiated. Relatives and representatives of other maritime organisations attended.

Middle Temple

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, has been elected an Honorary Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple. Mr N.J. Mylne, QC, Mr A.R. Thornhill, QC, and Mr R.M. Englehart, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench.

Unknown version of Verdi song is revealed

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unknown manuscript from Verdi's *Otello* which includes *The Willow Song* in a version which dramatically differs from the one audiences have known since its 1887 premiere has been discovered in a private collection.

The undocumented 19-page autograph is a working manuscript in which the Italian master explored his ideas for both *The Willow Song* and *Ave Maria*. It will be sold on December 1 by Sotheby's, which describes it as the most important Verdi manuscript to be offered at auction.

Collectors have generally been offered no more than a *single leaf of a manuscript*. Anything relating to his operatic work has also been from the early operas of the 1840s rather than major works such as *Otello*, written when Verdi (1813-1901) was 73. Almost all his manuscripts are in the archives of the Ricordi publishing house in Milan.

Simon Maguire of Sotheby's said: "This offers an extremely rare insight into the creative process of the greatest of all Italian opera composers. It is not only from one of the greatest works of his maturity, but contains rare evidence of the early stages in its creation."

He said that the setting of The Willow Song uses a different text from the standard version. Until now, it was not known that Verdi had set Arrigo Boito's original 1789 text. "Verdi was obviously dissatisfied with it," Mr Maguire said, pointing out that certain melodies associated with the final version are absent and that this version opens with a different melodic line. He added: "This manuscript therefore includes what is in effect a new piece by Verdi. Before this find, only three short sketches for Acts I and III of the opera were known and each are only one or two pages in length."

Ave Maria has a different vocal line which Verdi crossed out and abandoned. Mr Maguire noted how the final section is compressed as Verdi ran out of space on the page.



In his own hand: Verdi and the "new" *Willow Song*

Service of Thanksgiving

Wing Commander Sylvia Gibson, Major Ian Fraser, RA, and Squadron Leaders Paul and Jackie Lockwood

A Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of Wing Commander Sylvia Gibson, her husband, Major Ian Fraser, RA, and Squadron Leaders Paul and Jackie Lockwood will be held at St Clement Danes, Central Church of the Royal Air Force, The Strand, London on Saturday, November 18, 1995, at 11am.

All those who wish to attend the Service should contact Flight Lieutenant C.T. Smith, OC PI/Wel Flt, RAF Uxbridge, UB10 0RZ (telephone 01895 237144, extensions 6256/6535).

The Sir Leon Bagrit Centre

The Eleventh Bagrit Evening was held on Thursday, October 19, at 170 Queens Gate, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.

The lecture "The Clinical Applications of Magnetic Resonance Therapy (MRT)" was delivered by Dr Wadi Gedroyc, Director of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit, St Mary's Hospital.

This was followed by a dinner. Among those present were: Lord Glenarthur, Lord and Lady Rees-Mogg, Miss Mei Sim Lai, Miss Pat McCann, Dr William Harris and Professor Richard Kitney (Director of the Centre).

Deputy lieutenants

Mrs Mary Cairncross, of Perth, and Mr Alastair H. Cruickshank, of Perth, have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Perth and Kinross.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a Ditchley Foundation conference at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, at 3.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Captain General Royal Marines, will attend a march through the City of London by privileged regiments at the Mansion House at 11.25; and, as Admiral, will attend a dinner at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble, Hampshire, at 6.45.

The Princess Royal will preside at a Group Discussion on Equine Educational Provision at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, at 3.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as patron of the Royal School, Bath, Avon, will present the prizes at the senior prizegiving at the Theatre Royal, Bath at 11.10 to mark the 130th anniversary of the founding of the school; will visit the school to open the new senior school at 12.30; and will open the new head injury neuro-rehabilitation high dependency unit at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases at 2.40.

Royal Fine Art Commission

Lord St John of Fawsley, the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, presided at the Annual Lecture on Thursday, October 19, at 7 St James's Square. The lecture was delivered by The Right Hon John Gummer, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment.

It was entitled "The City: Past Present and Future" and was followed by a reception. Among those present were members of the Diplomatic Corps and both Houses of Parliament.

Latest wills

Mr Richard Charles Pomeroy Oates, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £565,447 net.

Sir Bernard Caulfield, of Lincoln, High Court judge (Queen's Bench Division) 1968-89, left estate valued at £323,422 net.

Dr Michael Scott Montague Fordham, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, founding chairman in 1946 of the Society of Analytical Psychology, left estate valued at £334,156 net.

Appointments

Mr Christopher Hum to be Ambassador to Poland from April 1996 in succession to Mr Michael Llewellyn Smith who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr Michael Gambon and Mr Richard Whitley to be Trustees of the Royal Armouries. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson to succeed the Duke of Wellington as The Queen's representative on the board of trustees.

Mr David Raymond Ellis to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Peter Hammond Bowers to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Judith Alford, Assistant Chaplain, Kings College Hospital; now Chaplain, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey (Guildford).

The Rev Colin Alsbury, Industrial Chaplain in the diocese of Chester; to be Vicar, St Andrew's, Kettering (Peterborough).

The Rev Neville Beamer, Vicar, Yateley; to be also Rural Dean of Odiham (Winchester).

Forthcoming mariages

Mr N.D. Allen and Miss J.M. Baker

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs David Allen, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Joanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Baker, of Cheam, Surrey.

Lieutenant Colonel P.H. Bell, RLC, and Miss A.S.C. Healy-Fenton

The engagement is announced between Philip Hastie, younger son of the late Mr George Bell and of Mrs Florence Bell, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Anna Susan Clover, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Healy-Fenton, of Sunny Bank Farm, Stoke Prior, Herefordshire.

Mr J.E.D. Boatfield and Miss B.M. Cocklin

The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of Mr and Mrs Brian Boatfield, of Houghton, Cambridgeshire, and Belinda, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Hannes Cocklin, of Windhoek, Namibia.

Mr A.S. Hutson and Miss A.J. Shepherd

The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Dr and Mrs Michael Hutson, of Granby, Nottinghamshire, and Amanda, daughter of Major Robert Shepherd, of Danestone, Aberdeen, and Mrs Margaret Shepherd, of Awali, Bahrain.

Mr R.A. Shergold and Miss R.A. Nice

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Roy Shergold, of Biggin Hill, Kent, and Miss Janet Clayson, of Battle, East Sussex, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr Robert Nice and Mrs Wendy Nice, of Langton Green, Kent.

Mr M. Whinney and Miss S. Walter

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Whinney, of Calne, Wiltshire, and Susanne, youngest daughter of Herr and Frau Manfred Walter, of Offenburg, Germany.

Mr R.W. Zeghibe and Miss C.M. Stranberg

The engagement is announced between Ronald, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Faris Zeghibe, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Christine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stranberg, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Christopher Wren, architect and scientist, East Knoyle, Wiltshire, 1632; Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, Prime Minister 1855-58 and 1859-65, Broadlands, Hampshire, 1784; Colin Campbell, Baron Clyde, field marshal, Glasgow, 1792.

Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Uffington, Berkshire, 1822; Odilon Redon, painter, Bordeaux, 1840; Arthur Rimbaud, poet, Charleville, France, 1854; John Dewey, educator and philosopher, Burlington, Vermont, 1859; Charles Ives, composer, Danbury, Connecticut, 1874; Sir James Chadwick, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Manchester, 1891; Sir James Chadwick, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Manchester, 1891.

DEATHS: Jacopo Della Quercia, sculptor, Bologna, 1438; William Wollaston, philosopher, London, 1724; Grace Darling, heroine of the Forfarshire wreck, Bamborough, Northumberland, 1842; Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Trieste, 1890.

James Anthony Froude, historian, Kingsbridge, Devon, 1894; Arthur Henderson, Labour Party leader and statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1934, London, 1935; Herbert Hoover, thirty-first American President 1929-33, New York, 1964; P.A.M. Dirac, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Florida, 1984; Sheila Scott, aviatrix, London, 1988.

George I crowned, 1714.

The boundary between Canada and the United States established at the forty-ninth parallel, 1818.

The first edition of *The Sunday Times* published, 1822.

Birthdays

Sir James Ackers, former chairman, West Midlands Regional Health Authority, 60; Sir Colin Barker, former chairman, British Technology Group, 69; Mr Hume Boggis-Rolfe, former deputy secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 84.

Sir Edwin Bolland, diplomat, 73; the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, former Bishop of Manchester, 71; Mr Chris Cowdrey, cricketer, 38; Professor Sir Bernard Crossland, mechanical engineer, 72; Mr Lawrence Daly, trade unionist, 71; Professor Sir Douglas Hague, former chairman, Economic and Social Research Council, 69; the Rev James Harkness, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 60; Mr Eddie Macken, showjumper, 46; Judge Deirdre McKinney, 67; Miss Enid Marx, painter and designer, 93; Mr J.G. Milne Home, former Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries and Galloway, 79.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, 69; Sir Anthony Reeve, diplomat, 57; Mr Ian Rush, footballer, 34; Professor S.B. Saul, former Vice-Chancellor, York University, 71; Sir William Shapland, chartered accountant, 83; Sir Alexander Stirling, diplomat, 69; the Hon Emma Tennant, writer, 58; Mr Timothy West, actor, 61.

Service luncheon

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

The Lord Mayor was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers held yesterday at HM Tower of London for friends of the regiment in the City of London. Colonel R.M. Wilde was the host.

Service dinners

Royal Naval College Greenwich

The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain T.J.H. Lawrence, RN, was the principal guest and proposed the toast to the *Immortal Memory* at a Trafalgar Night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Commander I.R. Wellesley-Harding, Commander of the College, presided.

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785

Mr Richard Ormond, Director of the National Maritime Museum, was the principal guest at a Trafalgar Night dinner of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 held last night at Lincoln's Inn. Rear-Admiral Guy Liardet presided.

HMS Neptune

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald was guest of honour and principal speaker at a Trafalgar Night dinner held last night in HMS Neptune. He proposed the toast to the *Immortal Memory* and dedicated the Polaris Patrol Submarine Trophy, made in honour of all who have served in or supported Resolution class submarines. Commander S. Sayles presided.

Royal Artillery

General Sir Martin Farndale, Master Gunner, St James's Park, presided at the Royal Artillery annual dinner to mark the action of the Guns at the Battle of El Alamein held last night at Woolwich. Among the guests were:

The Earl and Countess Howe, Lord and Lady Young of Graffham, Lady Soames, the Secretary of State for National Heritage and Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, Lady Moroney, Lieutenant-General Sir Roger and Lady Wheeler, Sir William Whitfield, Major-General and Mrs R A Pett, Brigadier and Mrs C M Gaffiero, Mrs April Clavell, Mr and Mrs John Ledlie, and Mr and Mrs Richard Reeves.

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Major-General B.C. Webster, Chairman of the Royal Fusiliers Officers Club, presided at the annual dinner held last night at HM Tower of London.

London Rifle Brigade Rangers

Lieutenant-Colonel Kyrle Simond presided at the final dinner of the London Rifle Brigade Rangers Officers' Dining Club, prior to its amalgamation with the annual dinner of the Rifle Brigade Club, held last night at the Royal Green Jackets London Club. Brigadier Colin Harrisson, Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Hamilton-Baillie and Mr Joe Harris, Honorary Secretary of the London Rifle Brigade Veterans, were present.

Meeting

Edinburgh University

Mr James Fairbairn, president of Edinburgh University Club of London, presided at the annual meeting held yesterday at the Caledonian Club. Dr Tony Busuttil, Regius Professor of Forensic Medicine at the university, was the speaker. A reception for new graduates was held later.

Luncheons

HM Government

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland.

Consular Corps of London

Mr Willie S. Wilder, President of the Consular Corps of London, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Britannia Hotel, London W1. Mr Stephen Howarth, Head of the Consular Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was the guest speaker.

Arts Council of England

The Earl of Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council of England, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at 14 Great Peter Street, SW1. The guests were:

The Earl of Harewood, Lady Hopkins, Mr Michael Jackaman, Mrs Penelope Lively, Miss Odaline de La Martinez, Mr Andrew Motion, Mr Robin Berrington, Miss Veronica Lewis and Mr Graham Vick.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce

Sir Nicholas Bayne, British High Commissioner to Canada, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Mr Timothy Battle, president of the chamber, presided. The Canadian High Commissioner, the Minister for International Trade, Canada, and the Agents General for British Columbia and Quebec were among those present.

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, was the principal guest and speaker at a luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Sir Brian Goswell, president, was in the chair.

Dinners

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

The American Chamber of Commerce (UK) with Standard Chartered Bank gave a dinner last night at the Reform Club in honour of the Ambassador of China. Mr Malcolm Williamson, group chief executive of the bank, presided. Sir Brian Goswell, president of the chamber, also spoke.

Naval Historians

Vice-Admiral Yves de Kersauson, the French Defence and Naval Attaché, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Naval Historians held last night at the Garrick Club. Commander Michael Saunders Watson presided. Mr Richard Ollard also spoke.

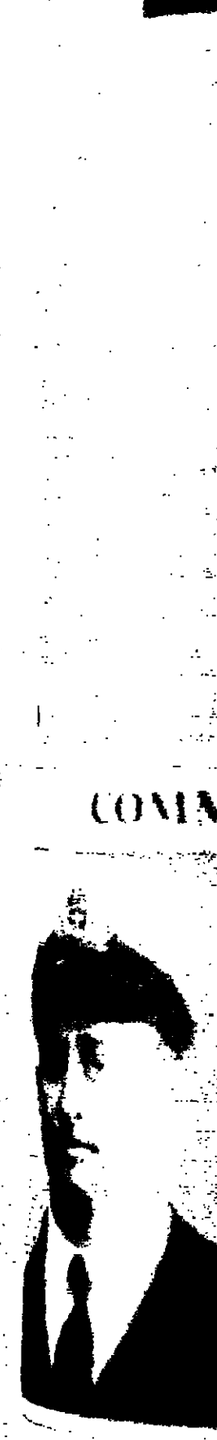
Edmund Burke Society

Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien was the speaker at a dinner of the Edmund Burke Society held last night at Brooks's. Sir Peregrine Rhodes presided.

Basketmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Basketmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

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the farmer who does the work has first claim on the crop. Reflect on what I am saying, and the Lord will help you in full understanding. 2 Timothy 2 : 6, 7 (REB).

BIRTHS

BRITTON - On Sunday 8th October, to Pauline (née Traill) and Steven, a beautiful son. John Oliver Traill.

BROWN - On 28th September 1995, to Vernon and Susan (née Berry), a daughter, Eleanor May.

CATTERMOLE - On October 4th, to Sue (née Bennet) and David, a daughter, Sophia Charlotte, a sister for Emma.

HINTER - On October 11th 1995 to Nicola (née Hutton) and Toby, a son Frederick George.

MURDOCH - On October 19th, to Murda Murda and Kova Murda (née Hessle) a son, Douglas Sebastian Hwange. Congratulations.

PLUMMER - On 16th October 1995 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Sarah Hunt and James, a beautiful daughter, India Scarlett Sarah.

RUGGLES - On October 15th at Princess Anne, Southampton, to Elisabeth (née Marsh) and Simon, a wonderful son, Alexander George. With special thanks to Sue Hunt.

STUTTER - On 19th October 1995, to Sinaia (née Bary) and John Stutter, Robert and Antonia, brother and sister to Thomas, Daniel, Josephine, Barnaby and Oliver and uncle and aunt to Anna, Samuel, Harry, Benjamin, Laura and Joshua.

TAPNER - On 16th October, to Alex (née Bidders) and Rory, a daughter, Rose, a sister for Freddie and Anna.

WHITE - On October 16th at The Wellington Hospital Lawrence and Jan are proud to announce the birth of their two baby boys, Harry and Charley.

DEATHS

ADDIS - On October 16th 1995 at home, Diana, beloved wife of Stewart who died on April 16th 1995. Much loved and supportive mother and friend of Dickon, Sarah and Madeleine and dear granny to Charlotte. Funeral private, but Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Parish Church, Staughton, on December 4th 1995 at 11am. No flowers please, but donations to Royal National Institute for the Blind or Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

BANHAM - On St Luke's Day, October 18th 1995, Terence Middlecott Banham MA (Cantab) MD, died peacefully after a brief illness at the Kenwyn Nursing Home, Truro. Husband of Belinda for 56 years; father of John, Susan, Joanna and Simon; greatly loved and respected grandfather of Mark, Sieyena and Morwenna; Thomas, Henry and John; Tamsin and Heather; William and Sophie. Thanksgiving Service St Feock Parish Church, nr. Truro, on Saturday October 28th at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to Cornwall Deaf Children's Society c/o Funeral Director, Teresa Tregunna, 49 Kenwyn Street, Truro.

COLE - On October 12th 1995, suddenly at Charing Hospital, after a short illness, Kenneth James aged 72, Brother of John. Ken will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Cremation at Leatherhead on Monday October 23rd at 12.30 pm. No flowers or mourning by request. Any donations to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

DEATHS

CROSLAND - At home very suddenly on Sunday 15th October 1995, Charles Reginald Hugh Crosland, beloved husband of Lisa and brother of Diana and Jane. Dearly loved father of Nelsha, Charlotte and Lorna and grandfather of Billy and Edie. Funeral on Monday 23rd October at St Andrew's, Little Berkhamsted at 11.30am.

DONG - On 17th October 1995 at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, Fraser William Dolo (Gong Kong), late of Cathay Pacific Airways, much loved father of Stuart Forbes and Caroline Margaret and former husband of Janet. A service will be held in the Cloister Chapel at Warriston Crematorium Edinburgh, on Monday 23rd October at 1.15pm to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired may be sent to the Diabetic Association, Edinburgh Branch, 28 Moraingside Grove, Edinburgh EH10 or to Dr. Finlayson's Education and Research Fund for Liver Disorders, C.L.D.D. Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9YW.

HOBBS - Jack, peacefully at home, 13th October from cancer borne with enormous dignity and courage. Dear husband of Olwyn, proud and loving father of Joanna and Mark, devoted grandfather of Emily, Tom, Cassie and Abigail, father-in-law to Ian and Anna. Funeral Saturday 21st October 2 pm Church of St Mary and St Peter, Salcombe Regis, Sidmouth. Family flowers only. Donations please to Sidmouth Hospiscare, Blackmore Health Centre, Blackmore Drive, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8ET.

IVERS - On Wednesday 18th October 1995 at his home in Lillingstone Lovell, Leonard Spencer (Tub) Ivens aged 74 years. Funeral Service at St Johns Church Wicken, 2 pm Tuesday 24th October. Family flowers only please, donations for The Injured Jockey's Fund. Donations and enquiries to J.S. Cowler & Son, 71 High Street, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1BA, tel: (01908) 566363.

KNOCKER - On October 17th 1995, peacefully aged 82, William Robert, Commander R.N., much loved husband of Elizabeth and father of Anne, Prue, Jane and William. Service at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30 pm. No flowers. Any donations for St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton, c/o Irish & Denman F/D, Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 5DB.

LANG BROWN - Lorna, on October 18th, peacefully, in her 95rd year, Widow of Alan, mother of Catherine and James. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Bruton, on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30 pm, and at Yeovil Crematorium. Flowers to Oswald Clarke, Bruton.

LAZARUS - On 19th October 1995, Sir Peter, at his home, aged 69. Loving husband of Elizabeth, much loved father and father-in-law of Richard and Deborah, Stephen and Gail, James and Mary. Adored Papa Peter of Alexander, Oliver, Victoria, Anthony, William (died 1991), Katie, Ben, Alice, Susanna, Tallitha and Thomas, and dear brother of Norman and Margaret. Much loved and respected President of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and Commandant of the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade. Cremation private - close family only. Please - no flowers. Details of memorial service will be announced shortly.

MAYS - Keith William on October 16th 1995 in hospital after a short illness bravely borne. Much loved husband of Muriel. Deeply regretted by his wife, sisters, brothers-in-law, relatives and friends. Funeral Service Saturday October 21st at Haycombe Cemetery Chapel, Bath, at 11 am, followed by cremation. No flowers by request, donations if desired to R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset. "Resting where no shadows fall."

McADAM CLARK - James M.C. C.V.O. Died peacefully in the early hours of October 15th 1995, now united with his beloved wife Denise. Much loved father of Alexandra and Caroline, grandfather of Alicia and Benjamin Peatham. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church, Suffolk, on Thursday October 26th at 2 pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations made payable to St Elizabeth's Hospice c/o Tony Brown's Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ.

MOORE-GILLON - On 15th October 1995, John Alec, aged 70 years. Beloved husband of Suzie and the late Daphne, father of John and Mark and grandfather of Edwin, Olivia and Claudia. No flowers, please, but donations, if desired, to the British Lung Foundation, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JR.

MOOR - Peacefully on October 18th 1995, at Haverholme House Nursing Home, Appleby, South Humberside, Oswald aged 94 years, formerly of Kensington, London. Husband of the late Rachael Moor, dear father of Barbara, Robert, Richard and Andrew. A funeral service and committal will be held at Woodlands Crematorium, Scunthorpe, South Humberside, on Monday October 23rd at 3pm. A Memorial Service is to be held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, at a date to be announced later. Any enquiries, please ring (01717) 584-8181.

MUGGERIDGE - On 17th October 1995 in hospital aged 80, Harold George David, Brigadier MBE.

PINNEY - Sylvia, widow of, Colonel Ambrose Pinney R.A., and mother of George, James and Verity, peacefully at Pinbury House on 19th October. Funeral at Beaminster, Friday 27th October, 2.30 pm.

PRESCOTT - On October 2nd suddenly at home, Alouse, Enid Mary dearly loved wife of the late Reginald Prescott. Cremation at City of London Crematorium, Friday 20th October at 11.15 am. Enquiries to W. English & Son, tel: (0181) 989-8422.

SAMBA - On October 17th, suddenly at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, James, beloved husband of Phyllis and father of Solomon. Enquiries to E. Lerner & Son, (0181) 788-2942.

SHAW - On 18th October 1995, Joyce Margaret in her ninety-ninth year. Any enquiries to Christopher Stringer Funeral Services, tel: (01275) 306000.

SIDEY - Philip John. Unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep on 15th October 1995 at Caterham while on a walking holiday, aged 69 years. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife, three children and many friends. A private ceremony will be held on 25th October and a memorial service is to be arranged later. No flowers but donations if desired to Children First (NSPCC) or Youth Hostels Association.

TOSH - Rosamond (née Sillem), on October 18th after a short illness aged 91. Funeral will be at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon, on Tuesday October 24th at 2pm when family and friends will give thanks for her life. No flowers, donations to Somerville College Oxford, Endowment Fund.

WEAR - Alan Ross, Ophthalmic Surgeon, of Wetheral, Carlisle, on 18th October, husband of Eileen, father of Timothy and Jean. Private cremation. Family flowers only but if desired donations to R.N.L.I.

WRIGHT - On 16th October 1995, suddenly, Arthur, aged 75 years, beloved husband of Rene, dear father of John, Christine and Susan and a much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 1pm. Flowers may be sent to A.R. Walker and Son Ltd., 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

UTIGER - A Memorial Service will be held for Ronald Ernest Utiger on Thursday 7th December at 11 am in the Crypt Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral to be followed by a reception at the Haberdashers' Hall, Staining Lane, London EC2.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DELL - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Alan Dell, the Broadcaster, on Thursday 9th November 1995 at 1 pm in St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

BIRTHDAYS

GIVEN Happy Birthday Mum. Lots of love Debs

CENTENARY

WEBER Laura Hallam, born 20th October 1895. Congratulations another 'Nora' and 'Jean' wishes from all the family.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR DANIEL GOEDHUIS

Daniel Goedhuis, former Professor of Air Law at the University of Leiden, died on October 5 aged 90. He was born on January 31, 1905.



DANIEL GOEDHUIS, a leading Dutch authority on the law, politics and economics of international civil aviation, lived very happily in England for the greater part of his life. He was a remarkable example of the kind of person who shines at different things.

A scholar and professor at a celebrated faculty of law, he was also a dashing equestrian, good enough to be much involved in the training of the Dutch cavalry team that won a gold medal at the Amsterdam Olympics of 1928. He was also a notably successful professional diplomat, especially during his time as an attaché in The Netherlands Embassy in London. Of easy manners, splendidly handsome and in great demand socially, he nevertheless proved himself a very tough and skilful negotiator for his country and for the Dutch national airline, KLM.

His interest in aviation originated in 1922 when, as a teenager, he was invited to stay with English friends of his family who lived in London. He persuaded his parents that it would help him to acclimatise to the future if he went by the new KLM flight from Amsterdam, the KLM Company having been founded by Albert Plesman in 1920. The London service was by a one-engined plane with four wicker chairs, and the luggage was carried on one's lap.

Crossing the North Sea was thought too dangerous, so the route was via Calais and Dover to Croydon, taking four hours. Croydon had one runway and two wooden huts. He had forgotten about passports, so the KLM man at Croydon gave him a handwritten piece of paper with the KLM stamp and told him that would suffice. Apparently it did.

In 1923 Goedhuis went to Leiden University to read law, but interrupted his studies to indulge his love of horses and riding by attending the Amersfoort riding school for cavalry officers. He was there commissioned as a second lieutenant, then returned to the Leiden law school, where he took his master's degree. Soon afterwards he was delighted to be offered the post of legal adviser to KLM. The company sent him first to Paris and then to London before he took up his post in the head office in Amsterdam.

He was there for only two years, for in 1931 he was offered the attractive post of head of the central office of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), where he found himself concentrating on questions of the legal liability of air carriers for damage resulting from accidents and delays. These questions involved the workings of the famous Warsaw Convention of 1929 on the unification of certain rules of carriage by air. Goedhuis's study of this convention gained him an LLD from Leiden University and is still a standard work. He soon became Secretary-General of IATA, and saw the election of Pan American Airways to IATA which thus ceased to be a solely European association of airlines.

His work with IATA also eventually brought him into contact with the Nazi leaders in Germany, and in particular with Goering, who had a great interest in the German national carrier, Lufthansa. Perhaps imprudently, Goering was described by Goedhuis as "a buoyant extrovert" who "proved to be an excellent and amusing host, which made one forget what a rogue he really was".

In August 1939 the Dutch Government mobilised and Goedhuis was called up as a reservist officer. He found himself teaching young cavalry officers how to ride. There was still some hope that the Germans might respect Dutch neutrality; it was, though, acknowledged that in a war between Germany and Britain, the planes of both countries might well overfly Netherlands territory.

Hitler had, in September 1939, sent a personal assurance to Queen Wilhelmina that Dutch territory would not be invaded. The Government, however, had accurate information about the true German intentions from its military attaché in Berlin, Colonel Sas; in May 1940 it put the Dutch forces on alert and Goedhuis was ordered to return to barracks.

Through some misunderstanding in the command, he was told to return home. The way to his house was across the golf course at Wassenaar; and there he heard the noise of many aircraft in the sky. On the golf course there was an anti-aircraft battery, and Goedhuis asked the officer in charge whether he could identify the planes. He said he thought they were German planes on their way to England. He was right in identifying them as German but wrong in supposing they were bound for England.

What happened was that the planes flew over the North Sea, then turned back and bombed Dutch airfields and barracks, killing both men and horses. The Dutch forces put up a fierce defence, but the destruction of the city of Rotterdam on May 13, and the threats to do the same to Amsterdam and Utrecht, impelled the Government to capitulate. It soon became clear to Goedhuis that he must go underground. He successfully did so and in 1943 managed to escape to England by a hazardous and adventurous journey via Belgium, France and Spain.

After the war Goedhuis became Professor of Air Law at Leiden. Subsequently Lord Knollys, then chairman of BOAC, invited Goedhuis to resume his work with IATA, at that time housed in a temporary office in London. This he did and took a prominent part in the Havana conference of 1945, where IATA was re-established as an association of the world's leading airlines, with a new headquarters in Montreal. He declined, however, to become Secretary-General of the new IATA; partly because he wanted to keep his connection with Leiden and partly because Van Royen, The Netherlands Foreign Minister, had suggested he should join the Dutch diplomatic service.

In 1945 he was appointed civil air attaché at the London Embassy, with the rank of Counsellor; and the following year was appointed to the same function at the embassies in Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Lisbon and the Scandinavian countries, expected to negotiate in all these countries for securing KLM landing rights.

He also obtained recognition for KLM in the United States and Australia. In the latter country the Air Minister at first proved unhelpful but ceased to be so after Goedhuis had charmed the Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, at dinner. Although extremely successful in his diplomatic efforts on behalf of The Netherlands and of KLM, Goedhuis was always disappointed that the Chicago conference of 1944 had accepted the principle of national sovereignty over airspace. He had worked for a principle of freedom of navigation analogous with the freedom of the high seas.

Goedhuis, while continuing to be a leading expert of aviation, acquired a complementary interest in outer space. He wrote many important articles on this subject, and was for some years chairman of the International Law Association's committee on the laws governing activities in space. This did not deter him from continuing his work on air law. He was president of the 1955 conference in The Hague, which revised the Warsaw Convention.

Goedhuis was from a family long established in Friesland, that Netherlands province with its own language. It was a nice paradox that this Friesiander, justly proud of his provinciality, was at the same time someone who settled with great contentment in the English countryside.

Goedhuis married Daphne Henderson in 1938. She died in 1973. In 1974 he married Pamela Denison. He is survived by her and the two sons and daughter of the first marriage.

EDWARD GRIFFITHS

Edward Griffiths, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, 1968-74, died after a stroke on October 18 aged 66. He was born on March 7, 1929.



EDDIE GRIFFITHS was old Labour through and through, a Welsh Christian socialist who could be relied on to support his leaders without ever wishing to shine in the chamber. Unfortunately, his parliamentary career began haltingly with a bad by-election result and ended disastrously with his expulsion from the party he had supported since his schooldays.

At a time when his constituency party in the Brightside division of Sheffield was moving to the Left, Griffiths stayed resolutely on the Right. A coup in the late summer of 1974, a few weeks before that year's second general election, saw Griffiths ousted and a trade unionist member of Labour's NEC, Joan Maynard, selected in his place.

He was charged with speaking rarely in the House, not living in the constituency and being an enthusiastic pro-European. All this was true; but the fact was that his party activists wanted a more left-wing MP and that is what they got in Joan Maynard, who was known disrespectfully as "Stalin's Granny" by some of her colleagues.

Griffiths stood as an Independent Labour candidate in the October 1974 election and managed to poll 10,182 votes, a fair enough feat in Labour's heartland. But Maynard won easily with 18,108, though her majority of 7,920 was well down on his of 20,567 only seven months before.

Edward Griffiths was educated within the state system and at the University College of North Wales. Afterwards he became an industrial chemist. His early political career was unspectacular — election to Flint County Council in 1964 and coming in third at his first parliamentary election when he stood for Denbigh in 1966.

Then, in 1968, a by-election at Sheffield, Brightside, gave him his big chance and he was duly elected. The result was highly disappointing for his party, however, with a swing to the Conservatives of more than 17 per cent and the Labour majority cut from 19,000 to just over 5,000. The figures were due, however, to a period of sustained Labour unpopularity rather than to any deficiency in Griffiths's personal campaign.

His Commons activities were limited. His interventions were few and his membership of the House's Services Committee was the most senior appointment he obtained. The Brightside activists had an easy target when they decided they wanted another candidate.

After he left the Commons, Griffiths returned to work in the steel industry in Sheffield. Recently he retired to his home in North Wales and was able to concentrate on local preaching, his study of local history and his interest in genealogy. He was recovering from an operation when he had a stroke while in intensive care and died.

In 1954 he married Ella Griffiths (they shared the same surname) and she survives him with their son and daughter.

THE RT REV HUGH BLACKBURNE

The Right Rev Hugh Blackburne, Bishop of Thetford, 1977-80, died on October 15 aged 83. He was born on June 4, 1912.

HUGH BLACKBURNE was one of the most courageous, skilled and engaging Church of England priests of his generation. On being congratulated upon becoming Bishop of Thetford at the age of 65 he remarked, no doubt thinking of eccentric episcopal appointments: "Well, it might have been worse." For a brief three years he was a model suffragan bishop. He could deal with concealed firmness with those who were too bombastic. On being told by his Norfolk hosts how many pheasants, partridges and grouse were stacked in their deep freeze, he remarked in a relaxed tone that all his freezer contained was a number of bats which had expired in an unheated Norfolk church and, being a protected species, had to be preserved.

The son of a former Dean of Bristol who had served in the First World War on the Western Front as a chaplain for four years, Hugh Charles Blackburne was educated at Marlborough, Clare College and Westcott House, Cambridge, coming under the influence of its Principal, B. K. Cunningham. He was enthused with a determined, lifelong sense of toleration, drawing on the wisdom of Baron von Hugel. After ordination in 1937 and a curacy in Yorkshire, he became a chaplain in 1939, serving with the Guards, the 11th Armoured Division, and afterwards, like his father, at Sandhurst. (The funeral services for the first British soldiers to die in each world war were taken by Blackburnes, father or son.) Both Hugh and his father were outstanding chaplains.

In 1944 he married the widow of a pilot officer, Freda Davis, who supported his ministry with creative energy and commitment. In their postwar parishes, first at Milton in Hampshire and then at St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill, he recognised the need for radical changes — much greater reforms than most bishops were inclined to support. To enable St Mary's to be a resource for the community he created a meeting-house in the churchyard despite much controversy.

He led youth parties on adventure holidays and his parishes were sought after by ordinands looking for a fresh approach. He instituted new methods of fund-raising and succeeded in breaking down some of the barriers to community at Harrow on the Hill. It was so striking that he should agree to leave Harrow for nine dilapidated parishes in north Norfolk that some appointment-watchers suggested that he must have blotted his copybook by impropriety, or by some over-enthusiasm.



The creation of the Hilborough Group, near Swaffham in Norfolk, first of nine and then of ten parishes, was his achievement (1961-72). He came at the suggestion of Bishop Launcelot Fleming, who knew of the loneliness and depression of many villages with schools, shops and churches closing. Blackburne was meticulous in planning and personal attention, so that each village, however tiny, knew that it was valued. He shunned publicity and any form of indirect coercion. He did not ignore non-churchgoers or agnostics and realised that the shy might be inarticulate but still be thinking hard. People still remember his hospitality and hard work dealing with dirty churches, tearing out rotting curtains, scrubbing floors and recruiting working parties. Big annual sales were held at Swaffham for the funds of each church in turn.

When the brewers closed the local pub, Blackburne, with Lady Roberts of Cockley Cley Hall as "licensee", created a new pub, "The Twenty Churchwardens" which, with a family room, became a focus for the community, and still flourishes. In co-operation with the diocese he created training schemes to attract men and women of all types to a country ministry designed to be stable, relaxed and lively. The recent tragic breakdown of relationships in some of the parishes caused him much grief in his last months.

In 1972 he became vicar of Ranworth and chaplain to the Broads, using for his ministry not only the superlative church of St Helen's and his own well-tended garden, but also his boat and his windmill. He would sail visitors and tourists, knowing exactly where to spot a shrike or a bittern. His large congregations on summer Sundays worshipped at services every detail of which, in readings, hymns and prayers had been slowly pondered, and the sermon was delivered as if it were a tentative, persuasive conversation with each individual in church. He had a gift for the unobtrusive question and for responding to the personalities of those he met. He liked listening to their views and was fond of the words of John Donne: "I thank him . . . that instructs me how to live."

His three years as Bishop of Thetford (1977-1980) and his 15 years in retirement in Beccles and Swaffham gave him many friends. His membership was valued by diverse organisations, from Rotary to water safety committees.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter of their marriage and two stepchildren.

COMMANDER RICHARD FAVELL



Commander Richard Favell, DSC, wartime submarine captain, shipowner and conservationist, died on October 8 aged 81. He was born on March 12, 1914.

RICHARD FAVELL was one of the longest-serving submarine captains of the Second World War. He was destined for a brilliant career in the Royal Navy but came out of the Service in order to take over the family shipping firm of H. E. Moss, which was based in London, Liverpool and Newcastle. On his mother's death he went to live in Cornwall and for the next forty years served the county with dedication in many different fields.

Richard Molyneux Favell was born in Sheffield, the eldest son of Dr and Mrs Vernon Favell, who came to live at Penberth, Cornwall, immediately after the First World War.

The young Favell entered the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1927 and went to sea in 1931. He was awarded the King's Dirk on leaving Dartmouth. He first went to sea in a submarine in 1936 and served as a submariner until the end of the war.

He won the DSC in 1944 when captain of *HMS Trespasser* in the Indian Ocean and in the Malacca Straits, service which included clandestine activities in landing Special Operations personnel behind the Japanese lines. One such disembarkation was spotted by some Burmese fishermen who had to be hijacked on the spot, lest the agents sould be "blown". As guests, the Burmese fishermen left something to be desired, knowing no English but being disgruntled at not being allowed to smoke.

Retiring from the Navy in 1950, Favell took over what had become the oil-tanker firm of H. E. Moss. He continued running the business until he sold it to Cunard in 1967 but meanwhile had moved to live on the family estate in Cornwall. His father had bought it from Lord Falmouth but such was his son's generosity that it did not survive intact in the family for more than one generation.

He gave Penberth (one of the last small-boat fishing coves) together with the village of Treen (including the pub) to the National Trust. He also presented it with an area of cliffs, including one of Cornwall's most outstanding beaches.

Favell was a JP on the Penwith bench, where his mother had also sat. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1971, having served as High Sheriff in 1963. He was a member of the General Synod of the Church of England for five years, a fellow of the Woodard Schools Corporation, president of the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust as well as being a churchwarden at St Levan for 31 years. Throughout this time, he planted and developed his garden in the valley at Penberth, carrying on the tradition of his father.

In 1940 he married Barbara Bridget Talbot, daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Ponsonby Talbot. She and their three daughters survive him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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TICKETS FOR SALE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BANGOR Vintage 72-78. Red Ground and other lost friends wrecked by Jools, Oasis and Idols for reunion in Nov. Please Reply to Box No 0961.

MALCOLM SARGENT Cancer Fund for children. Caring for children with cancer. Read 7" x 10" sae for 30sec card brochure. Calender diary, to 14 Abingdon Rd W8 6AF. Open 9.30-4.15 Mon-Fri.

SPENCER (Jones), John & Jan (Cousin). Contact Mike Ripley 0181 543 4930.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS

Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and rescue more families in urgent need of support. Help us face the problems of homelessness by naming Church Housing Trust as a beneficiary in your Will. Details from:
CHURCH HOUSING TRUST
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

You helped us in ASSOCIATION now help us in ACTION

London Association for the Blind has changed its name. Now we're working even harder to provide better services to blind or partially sighted people, at our care homes, through employment or cash help for those in need. A donation or covenant now and a legacy later will make it all possible.

action for blind people

Ref:TT,14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Telephone: 071-732 8771

London Association for the Blind. Registered Charity No.205913

TIGERS EXTINCT?

THE TIGER TRUST

Yes, the magnificent wild tiger could be extinct in the wild in a few short years unless immediate action is taken to prevent the current trade crisis turning into an international tragedy. The Tiger Trust is the only organisation in the world exclusively devoted to saving the majestic wild tiger from extinction.

To find out more, or to make an immediate donation, write to:
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PARIS TO LONDON IN 13 DAYS.

Any one who chanced to be at the Grand Hotel in Paris on the 22d of September, 1870, and who had known the establishment in any previous month or year, must have had difficulty in recognizing it then. The vast halls and countless tiers of bedchambers and labyrinths of corridors echo drearily in the ears of the half-dozen belated visitors who still find shelter here, and the Grand Hotel has as good as closed its hospitable gates. Instead of the endless whirl of gorgeous equipages which were wont to circle round this centre of gay life a single carriage stands in the dismal quadrangle — a travelling carriage, which, for the credit of the builder, we may hope has seen many better days, with a pair of horses, which, for the credit of humanity, we must trust are not destined to see many more. On the carriage and in it are stowed away five hand travelling-bags and two huge hampers, containing what four Englishmen consider the necessaries of life for three days, and tied on the roof above is the broad Standard of England, and a vast white banner.

This party consisted of three friends and myself, all men of business, and all "caught" in Paris, when the last railway line was cut, and with us we had an Italian gentleman. We had been fortunate enough the day before to fall in with an old Englishman as our charioteer. Thomas — otherwise "Tommy" — Webb is an old English jockey, who had gone over to France with Charles X., and now, in his declining years, is reduced to driving Parisians about in a hack cab.

Tommy never hesitated about the journey. We tell him he may have to drive us to Mantes. "All right, Sir," says Tommy. We tell him he may have to drive us to Rouen. "All right, Sir," says Tommy.

We mention that possibly he may have to take coach, horses, and travellers all the way to the sea-coast — to Dieppe or Havre. "All right, Sir," still says Tommy; "feed horses well and man well, and they'll take you anywheres." Then we hinted at the risk of a stray bullet perforating Tommy's tall hat; but Tommy only winked at us from his box, and said, "Never you be afeard of them hollarin' Frenchmen, gen'lmen; and, as for the Proosians, Lor' bless you, they wouldn't hurt an Englisher."

. . . A mile beyond the town [St Cloud] we come to another Prussian outpost. Here, exactly as before, we are called to halt, and this time we ask to see the officer in command. The men hesitate, but at last one of them disappears, leaving the other with his levelled rifle, keeping us at a safe distance. The soldier returned, with an officer, and the officer presently returned with a troop of some 20 cavalry . . . We are ordered into our carriage and driven under guard within the quadrangle of the hospital hard by. Here, tired and hungry, we break open our hampers and breakfast on the delicacies of the Grand Hôtel.

Our wine and cigars are freely shared with the officers about, and we have quite made up our minds that all trouble and danger is past, when an officer rides up and we are ordered to take our places in the carriage . . .

ON THIS DAY

October 20 1870

An extract from the adventures of five Englishmen travelling through France during the Franco-Prussian War. Not a day passed but they were arrested, imprisoned or entertained by troops of either side.

NEWS

Howard survives Labour attack

■ Michael Howard emerged unscathed after comfortably surviving a Labour attack on his handling of the prison service and the sacking of its head, Derek Lewis.

In one of the noisiest and most acrimonious debates in recent Commons history, the Home Secretary was given a 49-vote majority after a speech in which he savagely criticised the Labour leadership and Mr Lewis Pages 1, 11, 21

Prescriptions ruling will cost millions

■ The Government is facing a health bill of tens of millions of pounds after the European Court of Justice ruled that men are entitled to free prescriptions at 60, the same age as women. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said the Government must comply with the ruling at a cost to the taxpayer of £40 million for the first year Page 1

Pill warning

Doctors urged women not to panic after one and a half million users of the oral contraceptive pill were advised to switch to a safer brand because of the risk of blood clots Pages 1, 6

Asthma report

Air pollution is unlikely to cause asthma but it aggravates the condition of sufferers, a report found. The link between traffic, power station and industrial fumes is weaker than thought Page 2

Siamese twins die

The Astbury Siamese twins died within five minutes of each other from a bowel disease only a few days after medical staff had discussed allowing them to go home for Christmas Page 3

Hole in Polo story

Marco Polo never went anywhere near China, and made up the famous accounts of journeys around the Far East, a new book suggests Pages 5, 21

West book attacked

A book deal brokered by the Official Solicitor on behalf of Rosemary and Frederick West's children was "extremely distasteful", John Major said Page 5

Fatty Lindaburgers

Linda McCartney promised stricter controls on her vegetarian products after burgers were found to contain twice as much fat as advertised Page 5

Asylum seekers

The number of applications for asylum rose by nearly 50 per cent in the year to the end of June, to almost 38,000, according to Home Office figures Page 8

Shadow shake-up

Tony Blair started a ruthless shake-up of his frontbench team by sacking seven shadow ministers to make way for high-flyers from the whips' office and the back benches Pages 10, 21

Britain's role

Britain should make the most of a role at the heart of the European Union, Jacques Santer said. It has no need to "tilt at windmills" over sovereignty, as Michael Portillo did Page 14

Claes cliffhanger

Willy Claes, the Nato secretary-general, appeared before the Belgian parliament in a last-ditch attempt to save himself from prosecution on charges of corruption Page 15

Zanzibar votes

Zanzibar is holding its first multi-party elections for the parliament and presidency, and the incumbent President, Salmin Amour, is on the ropes Page 16

Hong Kong fury

Even Peking's allies in Hong Kong were seething at the shadow government's plans which threaten to emasculate the colony's Bill of Rights Page 17

Russian leader's roving hands

■ President Yeltsin surprised journalists and embarrassed his advisers at a Kremlin press conference by sneaking up on two women members of his staff and pinching them on the back. Although he was said to be looking "a little stiff but otherwise healthy", the incident will join the list of similarly strange episodes during Mr Yeltsin's four years in power Page 1



Blue iceberg, Antarctica, Cherry Alexander's picture which won the 1995 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition

BUSINESS

Estate agents: Cornerstone, one of Britain's largest independent estate agency chains with 70 branches, went into receivership, underlining the severity of the housing market recession Page 25

Trafalgar House: The construction group warned the stock market it would turn in losses much worse than expected for the year that ended in September Page 25

Polly Peck: Asil Nadir could be free to return to Britain next spring. His sister began legal proceedings seeking damages Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 14.4 to 3578.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.2 to 83.9 after a rise from $1.5697 to $1.5713 but a fall from DM2.2337 to DM2.2213 Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: The England tour party arrived in South Africa to be told by their hosts that they are part of a nation-building exercise. Michael Atherton is in confident mood, writes David Miller Page 46

Tennis: British interest in the Brighton International tournament ended when Clare Wood was beaten by Helena Sukova, the No 6 seed, in round two Page 45

Football: Julian Dicks, the West Ham defender, was suspended for three matches by an FA disciplinary commission after being found guilty of violence Page 48

Rugby union: Cardiff are making fresh attempts to get Jonathan Davies, the Wales rugby league captain, released from his contract with Warrington Page 48

Osborne at length: Running at four hours, the RSC's new production of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* is a marathon evening, but fascinating Page 37

Rhythm queen: Now 70 years old, *Ruth Brown — the extrovert jazz singer once dubbed "Miss Rhythm" — can still mount a great show,* as Ronnie Scott's audiences are discovering Page 38

Werther on the road: English Touring Opera has launched its new season with an imaginative staging of Massenet's *Werther* Page 37

Pop on Friday: Alan Jackson on Human League; David Sinclair on new albums from Smashing Pumpkins and the Pretenders; Caitlin Moran on the stupid things superstars say Page 39

Comically unhip: Griff Rhys Jones says he belongs to a club that includes Kenneth Branagh and Phil Collins "and we remain middle-of-the-road" Page 18

Fashion statement: "Haute couture is dead." Giles Coren meets Pierre Bergé, who built the Yves *Saint Laurent empire* Page 19

Myth ahoy! The Victorians covered Nelson with a hundred layers of varnish but now, says Libby Purves, the new Nelson Gallery is stripping it away Page 19

Backchat: The British often show a deep distrust of foreigners. It's time we learnt to talk their language Page 41

Dressing down: Returning from five years in America, Lucy Hodges has to break the news to her daughter — your school requires you to wear a uniform Page 41



IN THE TIMES

■ **TRAVEL**
Win a £3,000 holiday for two in Nepal

■ **REVIEWS**
Jonathan Meades on Conran's Mezzo; Richard Morrison on guidelines for a politically correct Christmas

The international trade embargo on Iraq, now in its sixth year, is not easy to maintain. It has brought malnutrition and misery to the Iraqi people, while Saddam Hussein lives in royal splendour. There has been far more deception than United Nations arms inspectors realised. But unless Baghdad changes its ways and honestly fulfils its arms control commitments, the sanctions will not end soon. — *The New York Times*

Preview: Joyce Grenfell, mistress of the comic monologue, is profiled in *Heroes of Comedy* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss salutes Molly Dineen, a busy fly on the barrack room wall Page 47

Sprung from jail

Not since the Westland crisis has the fate of a minister appeared to hinge on so technical an issue. Clear enough were the passions of the Home Secretary, his opposite number and — towards the end of the battle — Tony Blair. The problems of the Prison Service remain, no closer to resolution Page 21

Shadow boxing

It is hardly common practice for an organisation to allow its top managers to be elected. Why should the Labour Party do so? Page 21

Polo's Chinese chukka

Marco Polo did not set out to write the medieval equivalent of a *Financial Times* special report Page 21

PHILIP HOWARD

Whether Rudyard Kipling or Jane Austen was homosexual (absurd notion) is not the most important fact about them. That Gladstone flagellated himself after being aroused by prostitutes makes that austere figure more human, just as Johnson's sexual temptations and remorse are interesting Page 20

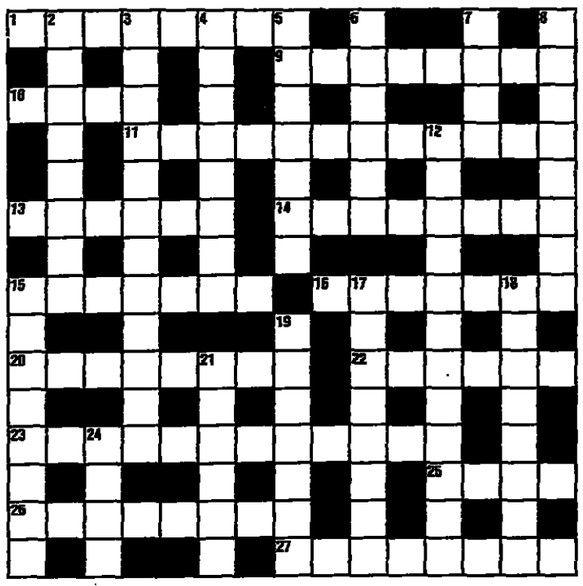
BERNARD LEVIN

There is a dark side to science, and many scientists acknowledge that darkness, which takes the form of "If it can be done, it must be done". When Professor Christiaan Barnard did the first heart transplant in 1967, the world was stunned, and he was hailed as not only one of the greatest scientists in all history, but almost as a man who had found the way to abolish death Page 20

Professor Daniel Goedhuis, Professor of Air Law at the University of Leiden; Edward Griffiths, Labour MP for Sheffield; The Right Rev Hugh Blackburne, Bishop of Thetford; Commander Richard Favell, wartime submarine captain Page 23

Single European army; charities using shock tactics; divorce reforms Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,991



ACROSS

1 From which comes a supply to the stomach? (3)
9 Breed rodents and bats (8)
10 It's fallen out of pocket (4)
11 Ditch vessel given pounding from cannon (6,6)
13 Man has to live in pain (6)
14 Bound to be embarrassed (8)
15 Preparing to put fastener in rough mass of hair (7)
16 I'll say this first for Ireland — it is green (7)
20 Press report Conservative majority achieved (8)
22 Mate for Hardy is assigned for Victory (6)
23 Introduce poor singer to step-by-step guide (7-5)
25 Russian takes head off the sofa (4)
26 Henry kept in by the runs — a painful illness (8)
27 Court music? (8)

DOWN

2 Omitting nothing by hiding nothing (8)
3 Recent development in our editorial and feature pages (6, 6)
4 Go over the top of French island in climbing equipment (4, 2, 2)
5 Difficult to restrain son being playful (7)
6 Soundly defeat in the event (6)
7 What's suitable to frame a decree? Let it be Latin (4)
8 Edged 'ard to slip and was put down (8)
12 Echo on the drums (12)
15 One would not go down well among these names (4-4)
17 Badly brought up in youth, say, one makes an accessory (8)
18 Frame used by ship to maintain general direction (3-5)
19 Put down for soldiers by compulsory enlistment (7)
21 Landor had the makings of a poet and critic (6)
24 A second team within an alliance (4)

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 19,990

R	H	E	T	O	R	I	C	N	O	M	A	D	S	
	U		H		E		H		A		S		I	
E	N	T	R	A	P		R	E	V	I	S	I	O	N
	D		E		E		I		I		N		G	
T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S		G	E	N	I	A	L
	E		H		T		A		N		E			
I	D	I	O	T		C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T
N		L		D		P		E		E		O		
H	E	A	D	L	I	G	H	T		T	W	A	I	N
E		L		S	E	S		M		S				
R	U	S	T	I	C		R	E	L	I	A	B	L	E
I		O		W		I		R		A				
T	U	R	N	O	V	E	R		P	O	K	I	N	G
O		A		E		U		E		D				
R	A	N	K	E	R		N	E	P	O	T	I	S	M

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake Distrct	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Firel,Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
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N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 18C (64F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Tiree, inner Hebrides, 0.33in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 8.1hr.

OVERNIGHT

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be cloudy today and patchy rain will move south to reach the southern counties during the afternoon. Clearer weather will spread from the north, bringing some sunshine to northern and central parts later in the day.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a bright day with sunny intervals, although showers are likely in the far north during the morning. Overnight, most places will remain dry.

☐ **London, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales:** cloudy, outbreaks of rain dying out. Wind light, northerly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **SE England, Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy, with outbreaks of rain. Wind light, north to northwest. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E England, N Wales, N W England, Central N England:** cloudy, bright or sunny spells developing. Wind light, northerly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland:** the day should be mainly dry with good sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, northwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday:** bright with some sunshine, although Sunday will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

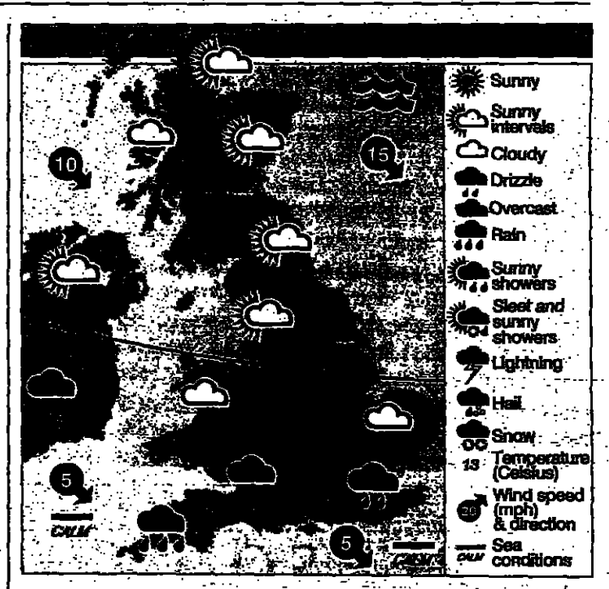
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; hr=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.0	0.02	15	59	c	London	4.6	-	17	63	s
Anglesey	2.5	-	16	61	c	Lowestoft	1.7	-	18	61	c
Aspatria	0.8	0.02	14	57	d	Manchester	-	-	15	59	c
Aviemore	3.9	-	14	57	s	Margate	5.2	-	18	64	s
Belfast	-	0.04	14	57	r	Minehead	6.6	-	17	63	s
Birmingham	3.2	-	17	63	b	Morecambe	-	-	15	59	du
Bognor R	8.1	-	17	63	s	Newcastle	-	0.03	15	59	r
Bournem'th	5.4	-	18	61	s	Newquay	4.8	-	15	59	b
Bristol	4.7	-	16	61	s	Norwich	2.5	-	18	61	b
Buxton	0.7	-	14	57	du	Nottingham	X				
Cardiff	4.8	0.01	16	61	s	Oxford	3.8	-	17	63	b
Clacton	6.1	-	13	55	s	Penzance	X	-	17	63	s
Colwyn Bay	4.2	-	18	64	b	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	1.0	-	15	59	c	Poole	6.8	-	18	64	s
Doncaster	X					Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	2.8	-	15	59	b	Ross-o-wye	5.3	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	2.4	-	18	61	c	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	0.6	0.03	14	57	r	Scarborough	5.1	-	17	63	s
Exmouth	4.7	-	18	61	b	Sandown	6.7	-	17	63	b
Falmouth	4.8	-	17	63	s	Saunton Snd	4.7	-	15	61	b
Fishguard	3.9	-	15	59	c	Scarboro'	-	-	14	57	c
Folkestone	6.4	-	18	61	s	Shanklin	6.8	-	16	61	s
Glasgow	0.8	0.01	14	57	r	Shrawsbury	3.9	-	16	61	b
Guernsey	X					Skegness	1.0	-	16	61	c
Hastings	5.0	-	16	61	b	Southend	5.3	-	16	61	s
Hayling I.	7.4	-	16	61	s	Southport	1.2	-	15	59	du
Herne Bay	5.7	-	16	61	b	Southsea	5.3	-	18	61	s
Hove	5.8	-	17	63	s	St. Ives	X				
Hunstanton	2.0	-	15	59	b	Stornoway	0.1	0.13	11	52	sh
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	7.2	-	17	63	s
Isle of Man	-	-	15	59	c	Teignmouth	6.4	-	17	63	s
Jersey	1.3	-	16	59	c	Tenby	6.2	-	17	63	s
Kinloss	1.7	0.02	14	57	c	Tiree	0.1	0.10	13	55	c
Leeds	-	-	14	57	d	Torquay	5.6	-	17	63	b
Lerwick	3.6	0.23	10	50	sh	Tynemouth	-	0.01	15	59	c
Leuchars	3.6	-	16	61	s	Ventnor	6.8	-	18	61	s
Littlehmptn	7.2	-	15	59	s	West-o-mare	X				
Liverpool	-	-	14	57	c	Weymouth	5.2	-	16	61	b

ABROAD

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

Ajaccio	22	72	s	Corfu	23	73	s	Madrid	33	73	s
Akrotiri	25	77	s	C'phagn	13	55	c	Majorca	28	70	f
Alex'dria	26	79	f	Dublin	15	59	c	Malaga	32	72	f
Algiers	23	73	f	Dubrovnik	21	70	s	Malta	23	73	s
Amst'dam	16	61	f	Faro	26	79	s	Melb'rne	30	86	c
Athens	23	73	s	Florence	22	72	s	Mexico C	20	68	s
B Aires	23	73	s	Frankfurt	18	61	f	Milan	13	55	fg
Bahrain	31	88	s	Funchal	26	79	s	Montreal	18	64	-
Bangkok	25	77	f	Geneva	18	64	s	Moscow	11	52	c
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	22	72	s	Munich	16	59	s
Barcelona	24	75	f	Helsinki	10	50	r	N Delhi	32	90	s
Beirut	25	77	f	Hong K	28	82	s	N York	19	66	f
Belgrade	19	66	s	Innsbrck	17	63	s	Nairobi	29	84	f
Berlin	14	57	f	Istanbul	18	64	f	Naples	24	75	s
Bermuda	X			Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	22	72	s
Biarritz	18	64	c	Jo'burg	17	63	c	Oslo	13	55	s
Borda'x	20	68	f	Karachi	27	81	s	Paris	15	59	s
Brussels	13	55	c	L Angels	18	64	c	Peking	18	64	s
Budapst	19	66	s	L Palmas	32	90	s	Perth	17	63	s
Cairo	28	82	s	Le Touqt	16	61	f	Prague	14	57	f
Cape Tn	19	66	f	Lisbon	28	82	s	Reykjavik	4	39	s
Ch'church	16	50	f	Locarno	19	66	s	Rhodes	29	72	s
Chicago	17	63	s	Luxembg	12	54	c	Rio de J	25	77	f
Cologne	12	54	c	Luxor	30	86	s	Riyadh	37	99	s
Rome	22	72	s								
S P'laco	21	70	s								
S Paulo	24	75	c								
Salzburg	18	64	s								
Santiago	26	79	s								
Seoul	22	72	f								
Sing'por	31	88	f								
St'kholm	14	57	f								
Strasb'rg	19	66	f								
Sydney	25	77	s								
Tangier	26	77	s								
Tel Aviv	27	81	f								
Tenerife	31	88	s								
Tokyo	24	75	f								
Toronto	19	66	f								
Tunis	24	75	f								
Valencia	23	73	s								
Venc'ver	12	54	f								
Venice	12	54	s								
Vienna	18	64	c								
Warsaw	13	55	f								
Wash'ton	19	66	s								
Wellington	13	55	-								
Zurich	17	63	c								



Changes to chart from noon: high S and I merge and edge across UK, into Continent and decline; low K moves NE and gradually deepens; low A fills and drifts NE



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10:11	5.81	10:31	6.05
Aberdeen	10:46	3.74	10:54	3.86
Avonmouth	3:52	10.37	4:15	11.06
Belfast	7:49	2.85	7:58	3.10
Cardiff	3:20	9.07	3:30	9.39
Devonport	2:35	4.48	2:47	4.77
Dover	7:58	5.69	8:27	6.69
Dublin	8:47	3.51	9:00	3.85
Falmouth	1:46	4.00	2:05	4.29
Glasgow	9:58	3.65	9:23	4.02
Harwich	8:18	3.31	8:57	3.50
Holyhead	7:22	4.76	7:37	5.00
Hull	2:52	6.02	3:32	6.10
Ilfracombe	2:40	7.27	3:02	7.73
King's Lynn	3:16	4.93	3:44	5.18

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	11:29	4.78	11:59	4.97
Liverpool	9:03	9.04	9:32	9.50
Lowestoft	10:17	2.39	7:07	2.35
Margate	6:09	4.20	6:34	4.55
Milford Haven	3:07	5.49	3:24	5.83
Newquay	1:59	5.18	2:21	5.48
Oban	8:13	3.22	8:17	3.46
Penzance	1:30	4.36	1:52	4.70
Portland	3:07	1.46	3:16	1.57
Portsmouth	8:13	4.13	8:28	4.31
Sheerness	7:58	5.24	8:19	5.56
Southampton	7:45	4.02	8:02	4.26
Swansea	3:11	7.70	3:27	8.13
Tees	0:08	4.45	0:52	4.54
Wilton-on-Hull	8:07	3.47	8:49	3.67

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Sun rises	Sun sets	
7.32 am	5.58 pm	London 5.58 pm to 7.34 am
		Bristol 6.08 pm to 7.44 am
		Edinburgh 5.01 pm to 7.55 am
Moon sets	Moon rises	Manchester 6.08 pm to 7.49 am
4.11 pm	2.59 am	Penzance 6.22 pm to 7.53 am

New Moon October 24

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James Wilby cool under pressure in A Patriot for Me



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Are pupils being left behind in the race for results?



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Atherton renews his hopes for winter of content

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 1995

Nadir prepares for return to Britain as a free man

Lawyer accuses trial judge of error over £3.5m bail

BY JON ASHWORTH

ASIL NADIR could be free to return to Britain as early as next spring, it was claimed yesterday, as Bilge Nevzat, his sister, began legal proceedings seeking damages of up to £1 million. She is suing the Metropolitan Police and the Serious Fraud Office for personal injury and wrongful arrest.

Her action stems from the collapse of Noble Raredon, the leisure and photographic company, which went into decline after the SFO raid of September 1990 which triggered the demise of Polly Peck International. Mrs Nevzat was arrested in November 1992 after police alleged she was involved in a plot to bribe Mr Justice Tucker, the Nadir trial judge. The SFO acknowledged a year later that there was no evidence to support the allegation.

Mrs Nevzat suffered a nervous breakdown and is now living in northern Cyprus. In a writ issued at the High Court, she alleges personal injury, malicious abuse of process in obtaining a warrant for her arrest, and wrongful arrest and/or false imprisonment. The SFO said it would contest the claims.

The action is the first in a series of steps that could pave the way for Mr Nadir's return — a move that would heap untold embarrassment on the SFO. Peter Krivinskas, the Manchester lawyer acting for Mr Nadir and his sister, expects to go to the High Court within the next six weeks, seeking a stay of criminal proceedings against Mr Nadir on the grounds that he could not expect to receive a fair trial. Factors include unfair media coverage and the disclosure of defence papers to the SFO.

The matter could come before the courts in February or March 1996. If a stay was granted, Mr Nadir would be free to return to Britain. He would then be expected to issue proceedings for "huge" damages against the SFO. Mr Krivinskas said: "He has a complete defence to the charges, and will prove that the SFO foolishly raided South Audley [a company connected with Mr Nadir]. Everything since then has been a cover up."

In a second "ticking bomb", the House of Lords will next month rule on whether Mr Nadir actually jumped his £3.5 million bail when he fled Britain for northern Cyprus in May 1993. It is claimed that the trial judge failed to retake the surety on Mr Nadir's bail at his arraignment. The bail funds are currently in limbo, awaiting the outcome of next month's hearing.

Mr Nadir has consistently argued that he would be unable to receive a fair trial in Britain, where a warrant for his arrest on theft charges involving £30 million remains outstanding. Elizabeth Forsyth, his former aide, voluntarily returned to Britain from northern Cyprus last year, and is awaiting trial on two charges of handling stolen funds. Mrs Forsyth, who denies the charges, is due at the Old Bailey for a preliminary hearing next month. Her trial is due to begin in January.

Cornerstone branches call in receivers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY AND ROBERT MILLER

TWO companies that own 70 branches of Cornerstone, one of Britain's largest independent estate agency chains with 70 branches, yesterday went into receivership, underlining the severity of the recession that still grips the housing market.

Tony Snarey, chairman and chief executive of the Cornerstone companies, blamed the decline by 25 per cent in volume, collapse on the Government's housing policies and vowed to vote for Tony Blair at the next general election. A former chief executive of Royal Life Estates, Mr Snarey with Bill McClintock, a colleague, bought 347 Cornerstone branches for £8.15 million in 1993 from Abbey National.

Some 200 other offices under the Cornerstone brand continue to trade normally. They are not owned by either Cornerstone Holdings or Cornerstone Estate Agency, the companies in receivership. Mr Snarey said he had put hundreds of thousands of pounds of his own funds into the venture, and stood to lose "a lot of money" as a result of the collapse.

He said: "In spite of drastic cost cutting, adverse market conditions have forced residential housing sales to decline by 25 per cent in volume, making it impossible for Cornerstone [the companies] to continue trading."

The fragile state of the housing market in which Cornerstone operated was underlined yesterday by yet another gloomy set of monthly lending figures. The Building Societies Association said that gross mortgage lending fell to £2.7 billion in September, compared with nearly £3 billion in August. Net advances fell to £614 million from £750 million in the same period, while net new commitments were down by £161 million at £2.6 billion.

The two companies now in administrative receivership have offices in the West Country and on the South Coast of England and, between them, their 70 branches employed about 1,800 staff. Mr Snarey said prospective buyers had expressed an interest in all but 12 of the offices, leaving an estimated 400 people likely to lose their jobs. Three managers in Hampshire who had been planning a management buyout of 11 branches said yesterday they had been unable to complete the deal.

Mr Snarey said: "John Major has left young people with the burden of negative equity which will blight their lives forever. Fortunately, more of my ventures have worked than failed so I am alright, but I have lost a lot of money.

"After 56 years of supporting the Conservatives I am going to vote for Tony Blair at the next election."

Ernst & Young, the accountant appointed as receivers, said it was too soon to say how many jobs were likely to be lost. Alan Lovett, a joint receiver, said: "One of our first concerns is to promote a point of contact for the Cornerstone customers affected by the receivership." Some offices are to be kept open to ensure that all current housing transactions are dealt with. A customer helpline has been set up on 01734 522432.

Many of the 70 Cornerstone branches were closed yesterday, with notices directing customers to their nearest regional office, which would be open for inquiries from customers who had sales agreed.

Ciaran Barr, UK economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said it had been impossible for estate agents to foresee that consumer confidence in the housing market would remain subdued even when the UK economy had come out of recession.

"This year has seen a 10 per cent fall in sales and I do not see prices rising until mid-1997," he said. "The pain will continue for some time yet."

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JAMES VELLACOTT



Housing policy was blamed for the closure of branches such as the one above in Bristol

Recovery running out of steam, say chambers

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of Britain's chambers of commerce said yesterday that economic recovery in the UK is running out of steam as growth continues to slow, while company heads suggest today that the slowdown in the economy will deepen for the rest of the year.

Ministers insist on the underlying strength of economic recovery in Britain, but the findings of two key business surveys put forward strong evidence that any improvement in the economy is now faltering.

In its latest quarterly trends survey, the British Chambers of Commerce said that it was now clear that sustainable growth of about 3 per cent "is looking increasingly beyond the economy's reach".

The BCC said its survey of more than 7,000 companies "shows that the engine of the recovery over the past two years is increasingly running out of steam".

Urging against any rise in interest rates, Robin Geldard, BCC president, said: "The Chancellor should refrain from stimulating demand in the short-term, but look to the long-term to address these problems which are barriers to greater non-inflationary growth of the economy."

In a separate survey, Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, says today that companies expected a further marked slowdown in the economy in the run-up to Christmas. According to its quarterly survey of 1,400 directors, levels of optimism for increased sales, profits, new orders and in particular for exports all show significant falls.

Trafalgar warns of severe losses

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the troubled engineering-to-shipping group, yesterday warned the market of deeper than losses than had previously been expected for the financial year that ended in September.

Trafalgar, which earlier this month sold the Ritz hotel, said operating losses in the second half of the year would be "very considerably greater than the first half". At the interim stage pre-tax losses reached £48.2 million though that figure carried the costly refit of the QE2.

One analyst said that although the grisly tale for second-half trading was in line with City anticipations, the magnitude "was 10 times worse". Trafalgar, while refusing to give an estimate of the figures, has couched its warning in such terms as to suggest very serious problems. Some estimates have pitched losses at £75 million, the price Trafalgar was paid for the Ritz.

The statement, prompted by a share price slide on rumours that Hongkong Land was hoping to bale out of its 26 per cent stake, told of "material provisions" after a contracts review. Nigel Rich, chief executive, said he was disappointed by the figures but added: "We have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to get back to satisfactory profitability." He said Hongkong Land, the Jardine offshoot, had confirmed its support.

The Stock Exchange would not confirm it had launched an inquiry into Trafalgar's share price movements after a 30 per cent fall. At the close the shares were ¾p up 21¾p.

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Asda board moves to one-year contracts



Norman: no to York

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive at Asda, has moved from a three-year to a one-year rolling service contract at the supermarket group that he is credited with rescuing from the brink of receivership three years ago.

The news comes as rumours are circulating that Mr Norman is planning a move into politics. Mr Norman, 41, attended the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last week, where he was said to have confirmed he was on the parliamentary candidates' list. But Mr Norman denied that his current plans included any such move.

He said: "There is no substance to the rumour that I have applied to be the parliamentary candidate for the Vale of York. It is a story that people have developed because that is the parliamentary seat I happen to live in and it has come up for selection."

He added that Asda has never made any party political donations of a level that needed disclosing in the company's annual accounts.

Mr Norman confirmed that he attended the Conservative Party conference but this was because he had been invited to talk at a fringe meeting on share options. This is an issue of particular interest to him as Asda granted share options to about half the supermarket group's employees just days before the Government changed their tax status. Mr Norman was among several captains of industry to lobby the Government for change.

Mr Norman revealed yesterday that all the company's directors had moved from three-year rolling contracts to one-year contracts. Mr Norman said: "My attitude is that directors' notice periods should be no longer than 12 months. We [Asda] have a history of longer contracts that has cost the company dear."

He said that the decision not to move to one-year contracts earlier reflected the concerns held by the non-executive directors that people would think there "were going to be changes in management".

An Asda spokesman said: "The sole reason for the change is that it is a recommendation of the Greenbury committee. It is totally unrelated to anything else."

Mr Norman's future is the subject of much debate and other possibilities noted are a return to Kingfisher, where he was finance director before moving to Asda.

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Grid due to forecast dividends

BY GEORGE SIVELL

NATIONAL GRID is expected within the next day or two to forecast likely dividend payments after it floats on the stock market in December and to explain its complex capital structure.

Both moves are being made in advance of the formal publication of listing particulars, planned for late November, in an effort to stop the share price surging in an embarrassing manner after flotation.

Early government privatisations, such as British Telecom, were priced like an ordinary flotation, where advisers leave scope for a healthy 10-20 per cent rise in the shares once trading begins. However, the rises after flotation of the privatisation stocks drew criticism because of their size.

The Government is keen to avoid allegations of giveaways over the National Grid Company, especially after the debate over its directors' bonuses.

The National Grid Company is likely to be valued at between £3 billion and £3.5 billion on flotation. The flotation, however, is unusual in that no money is to be raised and that the company is owned by the regional electricity companies.

The National Grid share issue is further complicated by the takeovers in progress for regional electricity companies. Three of these are still likely to be running at the time the Grid is floated.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3578.6	(–14.4)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE A All share	1757.31	(–5.47)
Nikkei	17955.36	(+59.39)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4778.24	(+0.72)*
S&P Composite	587.03	(–0.41)*

GILTS MARKET

Federal Funds	5¹⁵⁄₁₆%	(5¾%)
Long Bond	107⅝*	(107⅛)
Yield	6.31%*	(6.33%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⁹⁄₁₆%	(6¼%)
Life long gilt future (Dec)	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	(105¹⁵⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5725*	(1.5695)
London:		
$	1.5731	(1.5699)
DM	2.2202	(2.2317)
FFr	7.7980	(7.8260)
SFr	1.8095	(1.8118)
Yen	158.18	(157.95)
£ Index	83.9	(84.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4110*	(1.4235)
FFr	4.9545*	(4.9885)
SFr	1.1497*	(1.1571)
Yen	100.57*	(100.83)
$ Index	92.6	(92.9)

Tokyo close Yen 100.72

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$15.85	($15.95)

GOLD

London close	$382.05	($383.80)

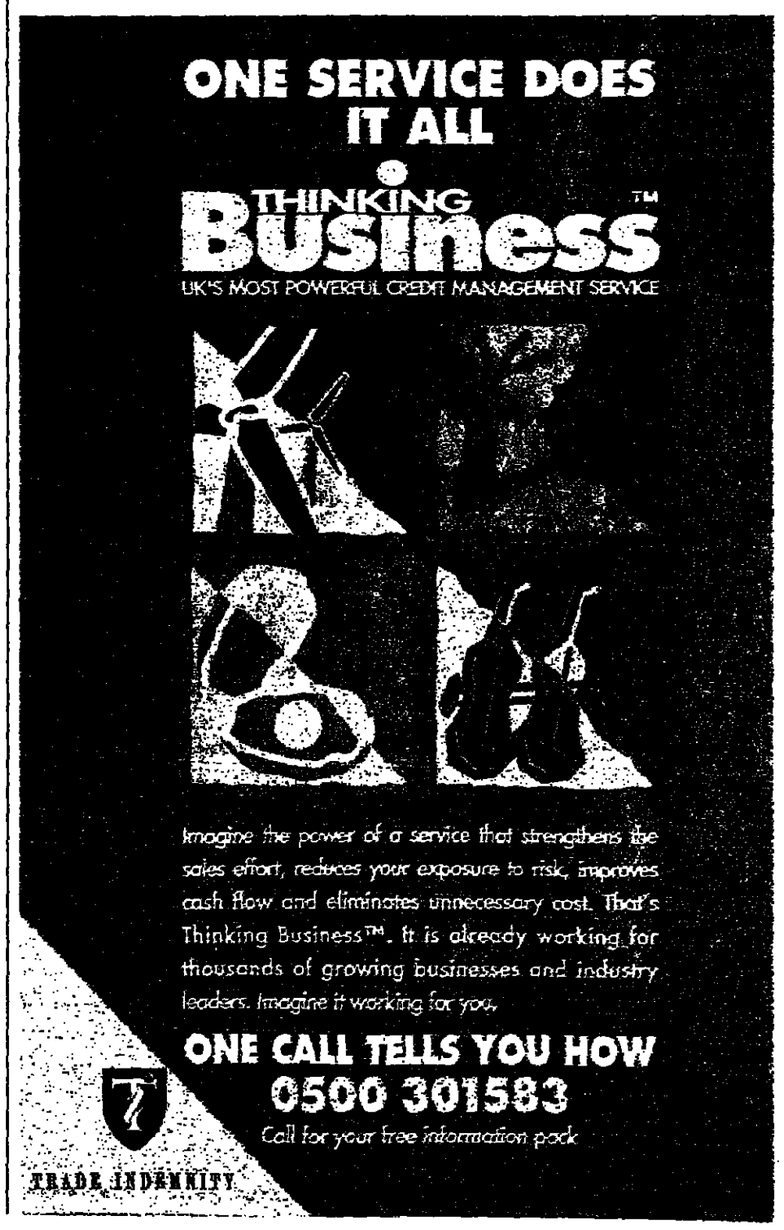
* denotes midday trading price

Inducement

Yorkshire Electricity, one of only five privatised electricity companies yet to attract a takeover bid, yesterday pledged to reward shareholders with £184 million in special dividends and to boost regular dividends by 10 per cent this year and next.
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Barings action

The Barings bondholders who lost more than £50 million when the bank collapsed are to consider legal action against certain former senior executives of the bank. Evidence to issue the writs could come from a Singapore report into the Barings failure. Page 26



Investors may sue ex-Barings executives

BY ROBERT MILLER

BARINGS bondholders who lost more than £50 million when the bank collapsed are to consider legal action against certain former senior executives of the bank. Evidence to issue the writs could come from a report into the Barings failure published on Tuesday by the Singapore authorities.

The Singapore report said that the Barings failure was due to "institutional incompetence" and "a total failure of internal controls" by senior management. It also accused certain senior executives of hindering the subsequent investigation.

Those who featured most prominently in the Singapore report are Peter Norris, former group chief executive officer, who is in the UK, and James Bax, who is in Singapore where he has surrendered his passport. Last night SJ Berwin, the solicitors representing the Barings bondholders, declined to comment on who the action group might issue writs against.

The investigations into the Barings collapse continue, with the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) in Singapore refusing to rule out a criminal prosecution against former senior Barings executives at the end of its inquiries.

The Serious Fraud Office in London has not yet closed its investigation and has not excluded the possibility that it, too, might take action against individuals. The SFO could proceed only if it found evidence of criminality rather than negligence. A leading fraud lawyer said yesterday that on the evidence to date negligence appeared to be the most likely conclusion.

The CAD continued to maintain that it might be prepared to enter into a plea-bargain with Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the crash who is fighting extradition to Singapore on 11 charges of forgery and cheating. Mr Leeson's UK lawyer, Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, said he would be interested in hearing what the CAD had in mind.

Meanwhile, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday mounted a spirited defence of the Bank's decision not to step in and rescue Barings. Mr George said during a visit to Kuala Lumpur: "Had we stepped in to save it, when the problem it faced was not in any sense systemic but was specific to that particular institution, we would, by that action, have introduced an unacceptable degree of moral hazard into the British banking system."

DES JENSON



Lenny Pippin, chief executive of Albert Fisher North America, left, and Stephen Walls, group chairman

Irish win $1bn investment

BY RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

INTEL, the giant American microchip maker, is close to announcing the largest manufacturing investment ever made in Ireland with a $1 billion addition to its existing factory.

Although the company has not yet confirmed the deal, the Irish Government is already celebrating such a large injection of funds, which is expected to create up to 3,000 jobs over the next five years. Richard Bruton, the Enterprise and Employment Minister, said: "We are at the end of a successful process. I am very confident. Negotiations are at a very advanced stage." Intel said it would not announce a deal until every detail had been worked out. Under a deal with the IDA, the state investment agency, Intel will invest $1.2 billion over five years.

The company's decision will be a big victory for Ireland in the intense competition between European countries to attract inward investment. Intel looked at several different countries, including Britain, as sites for the new investment. To strengthen its bid the Irish Government last week increased its incentive package, which industry sources said now included grants worth around Ir£100 million.

Intel first began manufacturing at Leixlip in Kildare in 1989. The plant, which makes an advanced version of the Pentium processor, now employs 4,000 people.

Fisher profit falls after cost increases

RISING prawn prices and poor plaice catches slowed the seafood interests of Albert Fisher, the food-processing and distribution group (Christine Buckley writes).

Despite a strong first full-year contribution from Macfish, operating profit in seafood fell 7 per cent to £7.5 million. Stephen Walls, chairman, said the company had found difficulty passing on 30 per cent fish increases.

Pre-tax profits climbed 15 per cent to £39.5 million on sales up 21 per cent to £1.6 billion. The final dividend, due on January 5, was held at 1.9p, making 3.75p (3.71p).

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Slower money supply raises rate-cut hopes

MONEY supply figures for September gave fresh encouragement to the City view that inflationary pressures are moderating and the case is improving for a cut in interest rates. M4, the broad money aggregate monitored by the Treasury, rose only 0.4 per cent last month, after seasonal adjustment, the smallest month-on-month increase since April. This slowed the annual M4 growth rate to 8.2 per cent from 8.5 per cent in August, the first fall in the annual rate this year, even though the measure remains at the upper end of the Treasury's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

The M4 figures showed a £4.1 billion rise in bank and building society lending last month. Although this was well above the £2.2 billion rise in August, it was lower than the three-month average of £4.6 billion. Annual credit growth ticked up to 8.2 per cent from 8.1 per cent in August.

☐ The Bundesbank left its key rates unchanged after a regular meeting of its policy-making council yesterday.

Johnson & Johnson bid

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, the US healthcare products conglomerate, has launched a $1.6 billion hostile bid for Cordis Corporation, a leading company in cardiovascular treatment. Johnson & Johnson is offering $100 cash per share, but still holds out hope of winning the agreement of the Cordis management to a merger. If an agreed merger goes ahead, J&J will offer $105 per share in a share swap, valuing Cordis at $1.7 billion. J&J wants to combine Cordis with its own interventional cardiovascular business, Johnson & Johnson Interventional Systems. It aims to merge its own unit into Cordis, retaining the Cordis name and management.

Revamp hits AT&T

RESTRUCTURING costs hit profits at AT&T, the American telecoms giant, in the third quarter. A $1.1 billion charge to pay for eliminating 7,200 jobs and 1,300 contractors reduced earnings to $262 million in the three months to September 30. A year earlier, AT&T earned $1.05 billion, or 67 cents per share, after a charge for its acquisition of McCaw Cellular reduced profits by $230 million. Excluding all charges, AT&T's profit was $1.43 billion or 90 cents a share in the third quarter, up from $1.28 billion or 82 cents per share, in the third quarter of 1994. Last month, AT&T announced a plan to split into three.

Unit trusts lobby Clarke

THE unit trust industry wants Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor to give it a role in the private retirement income planning market. In its Budget submission, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), proposes two new pension vehicles based on unit trusts. Autif argues that as the need grows for people to make greater private provision in retirement, unit trusts can provide "simple, low-cost access to the investment market within a vehicle of proven safety". Autif says: "The independent pension account would be the simplest to construct and is an adaption of the Personal Equity Plan."

Taxmen adopt 'who bares, wins' strategy

Don't mess with the SIS

BY SARA MCCONNELL

"NOT quite the SAS but you get the flavour." Steve Matheson, the Inland Revenue's head of compliance, smiled grimly, relishing the thought that the special investigations section (SIS) had wrested £82.7 million from big corporations reluctant to bare their books.

And that was just part of the £6.1 billion of unpaid tax run to earth by other sections of the Revenue in the year to March 1995. This is equivalent to the yield from a 3.5 per cent increase in basic rate tax.

For "ghosts" with no tax records, "moonlighters" with second jobs, companies slipping employees' untaxed perks with a nod and a wink and fraudulent accountants, the message is clear. Don't mess with the Inland Revenue.

Just in case anyone still doubted the Revenue's determination, Mr Matheson revealed that £1.1 billion of the total compliance yield had come from one company, which had been forced to make a huge "adjustment" to its tax bill.

There were no prizes for guessing that the bill had been adjusted in the Revenue's favour. This helped to bring the tax take from Revenue investigations and compliance to its highest level since 1990. Even without this boost, the take would have totalled £5 billion, against £4.6 billion in the previous year.

And the future will hold more of the same, promised Mr Matheson. Self assessment will be anything but a pushover. People may opt to work out their own tax and supply their own figures to the taxman but that does not mean the Revenue will take its eye off the ball.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.02
Austria Sch	16.73	15.23
Belgium Fr	48.87	44.57
Canada $	2.209	2.049
Cyprus CypE	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.27	8.47
Finland Mrk	7.28	6.69
France Fr	8.23	7.58
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	382.00	357.00
Hong Kong $	12.78	11.78
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.0982	4.4462
Italy Lira	2615.00	2460.00
Japan Yen	172.50	156.50
Malta	0.596	0.541
Netherlds Gld	2.650	2.420
New Zealand $	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	nat	5.41
Spain Pta	199.50	186.50
Sweden Kr	11.36	10.56
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	refer	75628.0
USA $	1.668	1.538

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

The University of Nottingham won new research grants and contracts of £40 million in 1994-95 - an impressive 22% on the already record breaking total of £32.8 million recorded the previous year.

The success underlines Nottingham's status as one of the leading research universities in the United Kingdom and flows from our policy of recruiting and supporting high quality staff.

Our latest results are also rewarded for looking 'beyond research'.

In developing a continuing strategy for success we need to recognise that the research environment is continually changing and consider technology transfer in its broadest sense, with the implications it has for wealth creation and the quality of life. We recognise the need to preserve sound fundamental research, but the needs of the end user of any development pioneered on campus must always be in the forefront of our minds.

£40m it's our reward for looking beyond research

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☐ The removal of a Cornerstone ☐ Continentals zoom in on UK fund manager ☐ Mowlem's pilot bales out

No relief for the chain gang

☐THE collapse of a chain of estate agents is rather like the demise of a particularly fierce and unpopular neighbourhood dog — of great sadness to its owners but not throwing up much sympathy elsewhere. One of the surprises of the awful housing market is just how many high street outlets have survived it.

Housing transactions have halved from their two million-plus peak in the late 1980s, while the number of estate agents, according to industry figures, has only reduced from 14-15,000 to about 11,000. Either someone was making an awful lot of money in the market's heyday, or many are not making ends meet today — probably both, estate agents themselves concede.

As the industry headed into the downturn, it started with two advantages over other recession-stricken retailers. For small operators, overheads can be cut fairly easily to take account of falling workload — fewer houses on the books means less local paper advertising, for example, while a small branch office can be run, if necessary, by a staff of one. The bigger chains tended to have higher central office overheads, by contrast. The business has also shown an enviable ability to push its rates up in bad times — 2 per cent tends to be the asking price today, although discounts are there, while some estate agents could manage on 1¼ per cent in happier times.

Many local chains stayed on the scene despite the disasters of the early 1990s because their then owners, the big financial services groups that went shopping in the late 1980s, grew tired of the loss-making businesses and sold them for nominal sums, often back to their original vendors. The clampdown on the mis-selling of personal finance also reduced the opportunities to sell their own product down this distribution route. The Cornerstone was bought by a refugee from one of the big chains and broken up into various parts, one of which collapsed yesterday.

The management was blaming the present Government for its troubles and the state of the housing market, which is a little hard to swallow. Falling prices and negative equity have more to do with the large numbers of unsuitable purchasers stampeded into home ownership under Mrs Thatcher than any tax changes brought in by her successor. Whatever the rights and wrongs, the latest building society lending figures do little to encourage hopes of better times ahead. The industry itself accepts that many other estate agents will succumb before the ever-receding recovery in the housing market arrives.

No BAT in the Gartmore belfry

☐WHOEVER is in fairly advanced talks to buy Gartmore, it is not the market favourite, BAT Industries, and it would be intriguing to know just who started that rumour ball rolling.

BAT's Threadneedle offshoot comprises Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, two of the best known names in the retail business, and is more likely to go hunting for more of the same than attempt a play on a mature institutional



business like Gartmore. That Gartmore will eventually find a new owner is beyond doubt. A quarter of the shares are traded on the stock market, while the rest is in the hands of Banque Indosuez, which has indicated its wish to sell.

Potential buyers are urged to form an orderly queue, and that queue probably contains any number of ambitious overseas banks. The attraction is a total of £24 billion of UK funds controlled by the fourth-rated manager on the London market by annualised average return.

Fund managers are valued on a percentage of the funds they control, and Gartmore's current rating, on a share price that has rocketed from well below £2 in July to 304p at last night's close, enjoys a 40 per cent premium to the average in a sector already inflated by bid hopes. The prime candidate now is the NationsBank because of a trading link to sell equity products in the US forged last year, but an American purchaser faces massive problems in accounting for goodwill from such a purchase, and a continental buyer looks a better bet.

The situation will be clarified soon, if only because much more on Gartmore's share price could prompt the Takeover Panel to require an announcement.

Marshall clawed by legal Eagle

☐WHILE John Mowlem may be identified most with the travails of London's City airport, it was the activities of my learned friends elsewhere that cost chief executive John Marshall his job. Mr Marshall's downfall was Mowlem's decision, as an ailing builder, to take on Eagle Star over the Carlton Gate housing development in Maida Vale. Insurance companies do not get to be as rich and powerful as Eagle Star by being over-generous in court, and the latter dug its heels in. Mowlem had been looking for £20 million in damages but ended with costs of £14 million, which were rolled into last month's halfway loss.

The company has been on the point of selling its 90 per cent stake in London City airport — losses so far £70 million — for as long as anyone there can remember. A sale to the City via a formal prospectus to interested institutions stalled on the runway this summer, and the talk is now of unnamed trade buyers, although most of the obvious candidates have ruled themselves out. The market has heard it all before, but there are reasons now for more optimism.

First, the world airline industry is firmly on the flight path to recovery, particularly on short-haul routes — even though this has yet to be reflected in the passenger statistics from an airport renowned for the wide open spaces in its boarding halls. Secondly, the renaissance of Canary Wharf provides a new source of business on the airport's doorstep. But Mowlem has yet to be called to the departure lounge for its flight from London City, and nothing is expected before next spring.

Norman conquest

☐VERY few heads of quoted companies have made the leap from the stock market to Westminster, unlike self-made millionaires such as the Deputy Prime Minister who can expect the dividends from their family concerns to keep rolling in and support their life on the penurious salary of an MP. Archie Norman has at least one attribute that will serve him well in any future political career: a marked fondness for personal publicity. But one thing stands in his way. Safe Conservative seats, in his home territory in Yorkshire, are about as common as beluga caviar in the average food hall at Asda.

Yorkshire pledges £184m in bonuses

By Eric Reguly

YORKSHIRE Electricity, one of only five privatised electricity companies yet to attract a takeover bid, yesterday pledged to reward shareholders with £184 million in special dividends and to boost regular dividends by 10 per cent this year and next.

The company expects to pay the special dividend, worth 100p a share, soon after an extraordinary general meeting in January. A share consolidation, the details of which were not released, will accompany the payment.

Yorkshire shares fell 15p to 899p, partly because the special dividend was below market expectations.

The shareholders' windfall is this year's second. In January, Yorkshire paid a 90p special dividend and swapped 25 existing shares for 22 new shares.

Tony Coleman, finance director, denied that the package was designed to fend off a possible bidder. He said it was part of a long-term goal of returning value to shareholders. He added: "I don't really think this package would stand up to scrutiny as an effective anti-takeover device."

The City agreed, noting that the special dividend would boost gearing from 33 per cent to 75 per cent next March, leaving scope for further gearing.

Yorkshire also said that it plans to distribute "most" of its interest in the National Grid, the electricity transmission company, to its own shareholders when it is floated later this year. Yorkshire, which owns 9.2 per cent of the Grid, will keep some shares to cover any excess capital gains tax that will have to be paid on the flotation.

Mr Coleman said that Yorkshire has been bombarded with calls from investment bankers with merger suggestions. But none has led to direct approaches. He said: "We believe there's a place for an independent player in this sector."

Tempus, page 28

Mowlem's chief resigns suddenly

By Philip Pangalos

JOHN MARSHALL surprised the City yesterday by resigning as chief executive of John Mowlem, the loss-making construction group that owns London City airport, after just one year in the post (Pennington, this page).

Mowlem, which recently came off worse after a long dispute with Eagle Star and suffered a £31.8 million loss in its latest half-year's trading, has made John Gains, a director since 1992, the chief executive. Mr Marshall, named chief executive in 1994, having been managing director since 1989, will receive £200,000 compensation.

Ken Minton, the chairman, said the appointment of Mr Gains, who is currently responsible for Mowlem Construction, is an important step in the group's refocusing from its "heavyweight and archaic" structure.

Mr Minton said: "It was agreed it was in the best interests of both parties if John Marshall and the company separated. Sometimes, the best thing is to part company. A CEO's job is very demanding, and, in a hostile climate, it gets even tougher."

He added: "The profit focus isn't there, the ethos isn't there. All that has got to change. I want to see a catharsis. The past is behind us. The other side of today's announcement is that John Gains is taking over. The company is undergoing significant restructuring and thrusting for profit".

Call to stop society speculators

THE Building Societies Association is pushing the Government to tighten up legislation to prevent society members of less than two years standing from getting bonuses or shares on conversion or takeover (Caroline Merrell writes).

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, speaking at the Prebon Yamane Housing Finance Seminar yesterday, said: "The association believes that the right to receive cash or near-cash substitutes such as shares on conversion ought to be based on a fair or reasonable period of ownership and not simply acquired overnight on the basis of pure speculation."

Board pay rises at twice general level

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

DIRECTORS' salaries are increasing on average at twice the rate of general pay rises, a new remuneration study said yesterday.

Companies are beginning to put into practice the recommendations for greater self-regulation proposed by the government-backed inquiry into boardroom pay, headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer.

The survey of a sample of more than 730 directors, including almost 90 company chief executives, carried out by consultants Bacon & Woodrow, suggested that salary increases for main board directors over the past year has been 7.5 per cent, and 5.9 per cent for chief executives. Such increases compare with wage rises across the economy running at 3-4 per cent, according to pay analysts.

The survey said that the differential between board members and chief executives is narrowing, in response to public unease.

But Bacon & Woodrow pointed out that salaries were only part of the picture for company directors, with their total packages worth up to twice as much as their salaries alone.

The survey said that boardroom members received an average of more than £212,000, made up of basic salary, bonuses and fixed benefits, while chief executives' packages averaged almost £400,000 in all.



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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Mystery bull push puts Pearson at a premium

SHARES of Pearson, the media group, climbed 18p to 661p ahead of a presentation in the City later today arranged by Panmure Gordon.

The group is expected to address questions about future strategy, investment and potential acquisitions. It may now also be forced to face questions about possible bids for the group and break-up values.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, stuck its neck out a few weeks ago by forecasting a break-up value for Pearson of £9 a share. This has clearly whetted the appetites of the speculators, who see huge potential profits.

Yesterday, no fewer than three other brokers, including Cazenove, the company's own adviser, were linked with producing their own break-up values. The other two were ABN Amro Hoare Govett and James Capel.

Detective work by *The Times* has established that none of them has even vaguely discussed the possibility of establishing a break-up value for the group in the event of a bid and, in the case of Hoare, has not even been a buyer of the stock.

What seems more likely is that one large institution, which should know better, has built up a large bull position in the stock and has been circulating various stories in order to drive the price higher, possibly before taking a profit. Either way, it has ensured a lively time for the company at today's meeting.

The rest of the equity market showed signs of running out of steam after this week's record-breaking run. Attempts by hard-pressed market-makers to call prices lower met with limited success. The FT-SE 100 index, down more than 20 points at one stage, eventually finished 14.4 off at 3,578.6. A total of 659 million shares were traded.

There was another early flurry of speculative activity in the financial sector, with insurance shares chased sharply higher before closing off their best. This was no doubt encouraged by Smith New Court, the broker, which has been bearish of the insurers for some time, but clearly now feels that its recent contraction is going to result in a further spate of takeovers.

The best performances were seen in **Commercial Union**, up 6p at 630p after touching 652p, and **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 8p to 249p. Profit-taking left recent high-flyers with falls. **Royal Bank of Scotland** was off 6p at 548p and **Royal Insurance** down 10p at 401p.

Trafalgar House rallied 1½p to 22½p after the troubled QE2 shipping to construction group reaffirmed that it still had the support of its biggest shareholder. **Hongkong Land**, with 26 per cent of Trafalgar, says it remains a long-term investor and is supportive of actions being taken by the management.

But **Nigel Rich**, *chief executive of Trafalgar, said that results from its power engineering, minerals and metals and French engineering divisions would be sharply down.*

Second-half trading losses would greatly exceed those made in the first half and the payment of preference dividends appeared doubtful. Some brokers were prepared to argue that yesterday's trading statement may result in Trafalgar being put into play as a takeover target, with would-be predators attracted by certain assets and its tax losses. It is unlikely anyone would make a move until publication of the next set of accounts. Potential bidders would also have to win the support of Hongkong Land.

A further 25 million Trafalgar shares changed hands yesterday, bringing the total of the past two days to 96 million. Wednesday's turnover was boosted by an agency cross of 28.4 million shares carried out by Robert Fleming Securities via Kleinwort Benson, the broker. The shares were not part of a holding controlled by Robert Fleming Investment Management.

Gartmore jumped 11p to 304p, convinced that Banque Indosuez is close to clinching a deal to sell its 75 per cent stake. There was talk that **BAT Industries**, down 11p at 537p, which owns Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, was eager to clinch the deal. Now there is talk that **National Westminster Bank**, 1p lighter at 659p, is making a move.

Dobson Park Industries marked time at 124p ahead of publication later today of its defence document. The group is currently fighting off an unwanted bid from Harnischfeger, the US mining equipment group. Brokers say Dobson's ability to stay independent will hinge on the level of profits it can forecast. The chances are Dobson Park will be able to produce profits above City forecasts which, in turn, will at least force Harnischfeger to increase its offer of 110p a share.

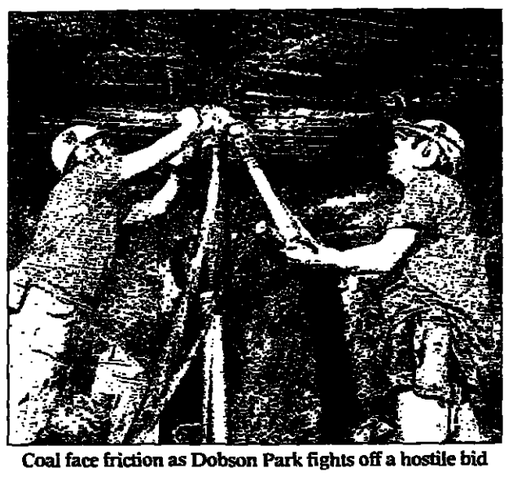
Tring International, the music company, tumbled 27p to 59p, stretching the fall of the past two days to 39p.

Interim figures from **Ferguson International** failed to live up to expectations and left the shares reeling 40p to 268p. Pre-tax profits were down £400,000 at £5.6 million following a charge of £1.5 million at its hangers' division. Sales during September were disappointing and the outlook for the year appears uncertain.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices recovered from a hesitant start and managed to make modest headway in spite of a mixed reception by investors to the latest bank lending figures and a higher than expected rise in the Phildelphia Federal Reserve's index for October.

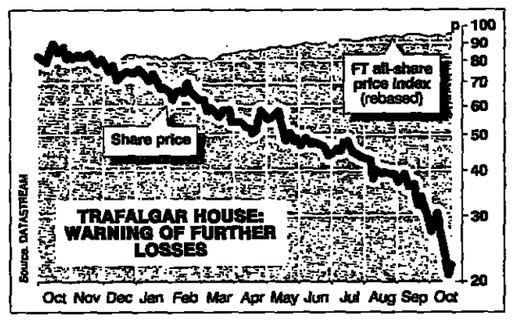
In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt rose £3/16 to end the day at £105 25/32 as the number of contract completed reached 43,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 climbed £9/32 to £97 9/16, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks better at £101 3/8.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Investors on Wall Street were looking for a new focus of attention, with important results behind them, and the Dow Jones industrial average was in a lull. By midday it was 0.72 points up at 4,778.24.



Coal face friction as Dobson Park fights off a hostile bid

News that Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group, is bidding $1.6 billion for Cordis left Smith & Newphew looking dejected. The price lost 5p at 188½p as eight million shares were traded. It had been hoped J&J would bid for S&N, which has come up from 165p this year.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	4778.24	(+0.72)
S&P Composite	587.03	(-0.41)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	17955.36	(+99.39)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	9981.61	(+7.91)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	456.48	(-1.29)
Sydney:		
AO	2111.9	(+0.5)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	2179.60	(-15.21)
Singapore:		
Straits	2088.74	(-16.15)
Brussels:		
General	7731.25	(-6.79)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1757.30	(-13.36)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	700.00	(-2.20)
London:		
FT 30	2621.2	(-15.3)
FT 100	3578.6	(-14.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	3938.2	(-3.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1779.4	(-5.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1399.54	(-12.98)
FT A All-Share	1757.31	(-5.47)
FT Non Financials	1860.80	(-7.00)
FT Fixed Interest	111.20	(+0.11)
FT Govt Secs	92.91	(-0.02)
Bargains	30182	
SEAQ Volume	659.8m	
USM (Datastrm)	181.44	(+0.17)
US$	1.5713	(+0.0016)
German Mark	2.2213	(-0.0124)
Exchange Index	83.9	(-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.1903	
£:SDR	1.0501	
RPI 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100		
RPIX 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100		

RECENT ISSUES

Cons Coal (50)	68		...
Euro Sales Fin	130		...
German Str Wts	19	+	1
Hay & Robertson	38	−	1
Indpt Radio	117		...
MultiMedia (45)	61	+	1
Murray Vct	105		...
Omnicare	86		...
Pemberstone	60		...
Pictet British (100)	103	+	1
Preston Nth (400)	400		...
SCS Sat Sys (125)	121		...
Univ Sal (149)	183		...
Upron & Sthn Wts	½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alumasc n/p (320)	113	+	3
Anglo-East n/p (105)	5	−	3
Baris n/p (16)	2		...
Forth Ports n/p (490)	91	+	18
RMC n/p (950)	128		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Acorn Comp	144p	(+31p)
Telspec	829p	(+39p)
Forth Ports	587p	(+25p)
Gartmore	304p	(+11p)
Mitel	350p	(+10p)
WH Smith	388p	(+11p)
Jones Stroud	425p	(+12p)
Argos	512p	(+14p)
St Ives Group	428p	(+9p)
Danka Bus Systems	595p	(+10p)
Takeda Chem	904p	(+12½p)
Reed Int	964p	(+11p)
Sothebys	885p	(+10p)

FALLS:

Ferguson Int	268p	(-40p)
Treatt	334p	(-20p)
Ranger	370p	(-20p)
Laird	419p	(-15p)
Airtours	343p	(-10p)
Royal	401p	(-10½p)
Robeco	430p	(-10p)
Tibbet & Britten	448p	(-10p)
Dalgety	415p	(-9p)
Chesterfield	455p	(-9p)
General Accident	675p	(-11p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Trafalgar's Waterloo?

THE excited bears prowling around Trafalgar House shares on Wednesday were no doubt hoping for news that the *taipans* had given up and gone back to Hong Kong. In the event, the only positive piece of information to emerge in yesterday's trading update was a commitment from Hongkong Land to remain a long-term investor in Trafalgar. This is not evidence of compassion, as the men who run the Jardine Matheson empire would no doubt dearly love to be shot of this troublesome company which the market reckons could make losses of between £150-£200 million this year. Hurried into making a statement after Wednesday's fall in the share price, Trafalgar painted a bleak picture — continuing poor performance and more provisions on engineering contracts.

Hongkong Land has no choice but to stick it out. It has invested some £350 million in Trafalgar, which cannot be worth more than £100 million today. Even if it chose to sell, could it find a buyer? The key question is the cash drain, which exceeded £100 million at the half year and must be stemmed if the company is to have a future. Trafalgar hinted that the cash position "stabilised" in the second half, with net debt reduced. However, *restructuring and provisions on contracts will* include substantial cash costs. Trafalgar's asset base is also under pressure and it needs to reduce its borrowings. It could sell Ideal Homes or its cruise ships, but it is earning a miserly return on ships, which will need to be written down substantially. To sell housebuilding would mean jettisoning one of the few good earners. Hongkong Land may be in for a longer haul than even it imagines.

Albert Fisher

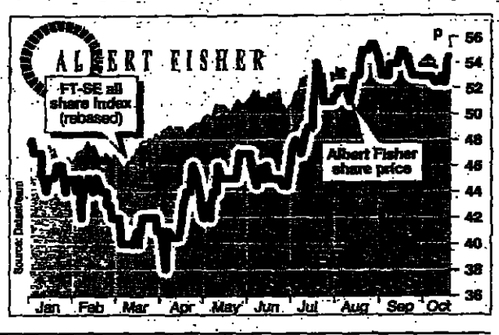
TODAY'S consumer cannot be bothered to wash lettuce and slice tomatoes, and *much of the future growth of* Albert Fisher assumes that *the lazy trend will continue.*

Fisher is investing more in added value food produce, such as prepared salads and breadcrumbed fish, where margins are better than in pure distribution. Expansion in this division — sales have increased ninefold over the past four years — has been a key part of the restructuring of the group, which has suffered from some ill-judged acquisitions.

Loss-makers have been steadily eliminated and Albert Fisher now looks a leaner machine. Assuming the company is not distracted by further acquisition opportunities, investors can hope that management will focus its energy on delivering volume growth in Europe, which currently is a sluggish performer.

Last year, Europe's performance was eclipsed by the success of the North American division which, with the help of a number of successful salads, transformed the previous year's rotten results into healthy profits. Albert Fisher is still prone to natural disasters. Poor fish catches this year pushed up the cost of raw materials, chiefly prawns and plaice, reducing the overall margin.

However, the prospective *p/e of* Albert Fisher is about 10.5, which, if the company can realise its potential, makes it a reasonable catch.



Yorkshire Elec

YORKSHIRE Electricity has a problem. It is one of the few regional electricity companies committed to independence and it needs to win over its shareholders. The question is how to secure their loyalty without blowing the balance sheet to smithereens.

A *compromise was* reached yesterday. The company will consolidate its shares and pay a special 100p dividend, worth £184 million in total. The incentive comes on top of an earlier 22-for-25 consolidation and 90p special dividend.

Will the new package work? Yorkshire shares fell but that should not be interpreted as the start of rebellion by investors. Shareholder expectation simply got ahead of itself; the special dividend had been widely flagged and some shareholders had hoped for a higher payout.

On balance, investors should stick with Yorkshire. The special dividends demonstrate that management is committed to enhance shareholder value. More important, they leave room for more. The payments will boost gearing to about 100 per cent, from 33 per cent at the end of the last financial year, leaving plenty of room for more generosity; or, if a hostile takeover offer is launched, a full-blown defence that could take the shares much higher.

Rubicon

THE big winners in yesterday's deal at Rubicon, the engineering group, were the venture-capital investors in the buyout of Calder which has been sold to Rubicon for £94 million. The metal-basher was sold by Cookson in March 1994 for £72 million and the backers saw their investment gain 30 per cent in value over 18 months.

Rubicon itself underwent a management takeover and reconstruction in 1992, selling its shopfitting operation and developing a business making metal casings for personal computers. The company wants to follow OEM customers such as IBM and Compaq into the US but balance-sheet constraints hold it back.

Yesterday's deal brings with it two useful add-ons: aluminium castings and rare earth magnets providing Rubicon with an entry into OEM car manufacturers. Calder's lead products and aluminium alloys business are cash-generative but look less interesting and could be sold.

Calder's profits have been growing fast, in part due to cost-cutting but sales should reach £200 million this year from £153 million in 1993. Rubicon is buying Calder on a reasonable multiple of 11 times estimated current-year earnings and gearing should fall, leaving the company scope for its US ambitions.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	919-918	Mar	1035-1031
Mar	*940-948*	*May*	*1050-1046*
May	965-964	Jul	unq
Jul	981-980	Sep	--
Sep	999-997		
Dec	1016-1014	Volume: 7943	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2396-2395	Jul	2212-2207
Jan	2346-2345	Sep	2185-2170
Mar	2302-2300	Nov	2160-2140
May	2255-2250	Volume: 4170	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	321.7-20.8
Spot: 386.0		Oct	291.3-90.2
Dec	349.6-48.5	Dec	289.3-87.2
Mar	328.1-27.9	Mar	287.7-84.4
May	324.3-24.0	Volume: 1161	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on October 18

(p/kg lw)	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
GB	96.87	102.48	125.45
(+/-)	-0.34	+3.23	-0.37
Eng/Wales	96.87	102.36	124.15
(+/-)	-0.34	+1.93	-0.55
(%)	+2.0	+8.0	+23.0
Scotland	unq	102.92	131.76
(+/-)	+6.42	+0.64	
(%)	-25.0	+21.0	

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.00	n/c
Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.00	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	15.85	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	17.20	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	17.05	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 171 (n/c)	O: 173 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Nov	*148 (-1)*	*150 (n/c)*
Non EEC 1H Dec	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	87 (+1)	89 (n/c)
Naphtha	149 (+1)	152 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Nov	146.75-47.00	Feb	147.25-47.50
Dec	147.00-47.25	Mar	147.25-47.50
Jan	147.25-47.50	Vol. 14724	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	15.95-15.97	Mar	15.66-15.72
Jan	15.84-15.85	Apr	15.61-15.68
Feb	15.75-15.77	Vol: 18457	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	118.75	Nov	110.00
Jan	121.55	Jan	113.25
Mar	123.45	Mar	115.40
May	125.55	May	117.25
Jul	126.50	Sep	109.00
Volume: 422		Volume: 260	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	184.0
Apr	266.0	270.7
May	unq	312.5
Volume: 52		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

Nov 97.25-97.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Oct 95	1625	1620	1618
Nov 95	1570	1540	1565
Dec 95	1570	1527	1555
Jan 96	1575	1540	1563

Vol: 566 lots — Open Interest: 3888

Index 1679 -16

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol: 2177825
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2738.0-2740.0	2678.0-2680.0	
Lead ($/tonne)	636.00-638.00	641.00-642.00	239975
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	962.50-963.00	985.50-986.00	379750
Tin ($/tonne)	6120.0-6125.0	6175.0-6180.0	25470
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1625.0-1626.0	1662.0-1663.0	1492450
Nickel ($/tonne)	7815.0-7820.0	7940.0-7945.0	45994

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3622.0	*3628.0*	*3597.0*	*3608.0*	*11270*
Previous open interest: 67474	Mar 96				3636.5	0
FT-SE 250	Dec 95				3960.0	0
Previous open interest: 3538	Mar 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.28	93.32	93.27	93.30	11937
Previous open interest: 331396	Mar 96	93.38	93.42	93.36	93.39	20863
	Jun 96	93.30	93.38	93.29	93.34	13162
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.24	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.42	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	95.98	96.00	95.95	95.96	26786
Previous open interest: 773381	Mar 96	96.08	96.11	96.06	96.08	24194
Long Gilt	Dec 95	105-12	105-27	105-10	105-25	44412
Previous open interest: 99416	Mar 96	104-28	104-28	104-28	105-07	10
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	120.50	120.76	120.46	120.72	3297
	Mar 96	119.50	119.65	119.50	119.63	111
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95	95.91	96.27	95.86	96.24	*160941*
Previous open interest: 193113	Mar 96	95.45	95.65	95.44	95.64	258
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.28	94.32	94.25	94.27	1937
Previous open interest: 19028	Mar 96	94.47	94.50	94.44	94.46	636
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	97.69	97.75	97.69	97.73	5603
Previous open interest: 46621	Mar 96	97.75	97.83	97.75	97.80	4465
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 95	101.98	102.28	101.80	102.17	36091
Previous open interest: 44541	Mar 96				101.81	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates Clearing Banks 6%. Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6%. Low 6%. Week fixed: 6%

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6^{15}/_{16}; 3 mth 6^{15}/_{16}. Sell: 2 mth 6^{13}/_{16}; 3 mth: 6^{13}/_{16}.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}
Sterling Money Rates:	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}
Interbank:	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}	6^{13}/_{16}-6^{11}/_{16}

Overnight: open 6¾, close 6¾.

Local Authority Depo:	6¼	n/a	6⅝	6¼	6¼
Sterling CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.76	n/a	5.81	5.76	5.76
Building Society CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth:	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-4	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-3¾
French Franc:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	7⅛-6⅞	7⅛-6⅞	7⅛-6¾
Swiss Franc:	2¼-1¾	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2¼-1¾
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $383.60-383.90 Close: $381.80-382.30 High: $383.60-383.90

Low: $380.40-380.90 AM: $383.40 PM: $381.75

Krugerrand: $382.75-384.75 (£243.00-245.00)

Platinum: $410.75 (£261.45) Silver: $5.53 (£3.385) Palladium: $134.25 (£85.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4899-2.5026	2.4899-2.4902	½-pr	1¼-1½pr
Brussels	45.65-45.98	45.65-45.75	12-6pr	31-25pr
Copenhagen	8.6140-8.6730	8.6140-8.6360	1-½pr	2½-1½pr
Dublin	0.9770-0.9806	0.9770-0.9795	10-7pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2186-2.2344	2.2186-2.2217	1-½pr	1¾-1½pr
Lisbon	233.79-235.32	233.79-234.42	33-61dis	118-163dis
Madrid	191.88-192.97	191.88-192.17	41-53dis	130-148dis
Milan	2502.50-2518.20	2504.80-2508.80	7-10ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.0983-2.1046	2.1016-2.1046	0.10-0.03pr	0.18-0.09pr
New York	*1.5692-1.5736*	*1.572-1.5736*	*0.12-0.10pr*	*0.34-0.31pr*
Oslo	9.7690-9.8230	9.7690-9.7840	1¼pr	4-3¼pr
Paris	7.7890-7.8210	7.7890-7.8030	par-⅛ds	⅛-⅜ds
Stockholm	10.6290-10.6940	10.6380-10.6610	⅛-⅜ds	⅛-⅜ds
Tokyo	158.00-159.46	158.04-158.31	¼-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.600-15.720	15.600-15.626	3¼-2¾pr	10¾-9¾pr
Zurich	1.8081-1.8193	1.8081-1.8109	¼-½pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel — *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3280-1.3289
Austria	9.95-9.96
Belgium (Com)	29.10-29.14
Canada	1.3364-1.3369
Denmark	5.4940-5.4970
France	4.9652-4.9672
Germany	1.4143-1.4153
Hong Kong	7.7331-7.7328
Ireland	1.6040-1.6060
Italy	1593.30-1594.80
Japan	100.63-100.73
Malaysia	2.5270-2.5280
Netherlands	1.5844-1.5854
Norway	6.2305-6.2325
Portugal	149.13-149.23
Singapore	1.4243-1.4253
Spain	122.34-122.39
Sweden	6.7783-6.7858
Switzerland	1.1536-1.1546

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5706-1.5732
Australia dollar	2.0855-2.0897
Bahrain dinar	0.5860-0.5980
Brazil real*	1.5051-1.5093
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	6.6575-6.7735
Greece drachma	361.50-370.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.1389-12.1482
India rupee	54.28-55.24
Indonesia rupiah	3521.00-3589.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4665-0.4765
Malaysia ringgit	3.9679-3.9720
New Zealand dollar	2.3831-2.3864
Pakistan rupee	49.74 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6575-5.7815
Singapore dollar	2.2264-2.2294
S Africa rand (com)	5.6670-5.7990
U A E dirham	5.7075-5.8315

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	361	*Land Secs*	*1,000*
ASDA Gp	7,300	Legal & Gn	1,300
Abbey Nat	2,700	Lloyds Bk	2,300
Allied Dunb	1,400	Marks Spr	2,200
Argyll Gp	8,700	Mid Elec	938
Arjo Wiggins	2,200	NatWst Bk	3,000
AB Foods	1,600	Nat Power	840
BAA	3,900	NW Water	2,200
BAT Inds	3,300	P & O	1,600
BOC	1,300	Pearson	2,800
BP	5,100	PowerGen	2,100
BSkyB	2,000	Prudential	8,500
BTR	5,400	RENAM	262
BT	18,000	RMC	335
Bk of Scot	2,100	RTZ	534
Barclays	5,000	Rank Org	1,100
Bass	510	Reckitt Col	346
Blue Circle	2,400	Redland	1,400
Boots	923	Reed Int'l	3,300
BAe	438	Rentokil	619
BA	2,700	Reuters	1,700
Brit Gas	11,000	Rolls Royce	4,400
Brit Steel	1,800	Royal Ins	8,600
Burmah Cstl	243	Ryl Bk Scot	7,200
Cable Wire	7,700	Sainsbury	1,900
Cadbury	2,400	Schroders	118
Carlton Cms	1,400	Scot & New	1,300
Cm Union	4,500	Scot Power	2,100
Cookson	618	Sears	3,300
Courtaulds	951	Svrn Trent	1,100
De La Rue	181	Shell Trans	4,200
Enterpr Oil	289	Siebe	761
Fisons	215	SmKl Bch	1,900
Forte	1,000	Smith Nph	7,700
GKN	406	Sthern Elec	215
GRE	11,000	Std Chartd	2,800
GUS	1,500	Sun Allince	4,400
Gen Acc	2,200	Tl Gp	430
Gen Elec	7,200	TSB	3,500
Glaxo Well	3,400	Tate & Lyle	2,500
Granada	1,400	Tesco	6,900
Grand Met	3,900	Thames W	1,800
Guinness	2,700	Thrn EMI	389
HSBC	1,400	Tomkins	2,100
Hanson	9,400	Unilever	1,100
ICI	2,100	Vodafone	9,000
Inchcape	2,300	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	2,200	Wilms Hld	1,600
LASMO	781	Wolseley	829
Ladbroke	568	Zeneca	1,200

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Allid Dom 500	32	41	45	11	16	25
(*523½) 550	8	17	21½	41	44½	53½
Argyll 300	35	41½	49½	4	7½	12
(*329½) 320	15	22½	28	15	19½	25
ASDA 90	12½	14½	17	2	3	4
(*99) 100	6	9	11½	9½	7	8
Boots 550	27	39	45½	15½	20½	27
(*558½) 600	8	16½	23½	48	51½	56½
Br Airways 460	27	39	46½	13	18	24
(*472) 500	9½	20	27	36	40	45
BP 460	29½	36½	42½	7½	13	17
(*470½) 500	8½	16½	22½	28	33½	37
Br Steel 160	15½	20	22½	3½	5½	8
(*172½) 180	5	9½	12	13	14½	16½
C & W 420	21½	35½	42	16½	23	29
(*421½) 460	5½	18½	25	42½	47	52
CU 600	49	59	65½	13	23½	28½
(*627½) 650	21½	31½	39½	34½	40	54
ICI 800	40½	51½	61	18½	33½	38½
(*809½) 850	17	27	38	46	62	66
Kingfisher 460	48	58½	62	7	15½	20
(*494½) 500	23	33½	38½	22	33	37½
Land Sec 550	36½	46½	52	7½	11	19½
(*577½) 600	10	19½	24½	33	35½	45½
M & S 420	28	38	45	7	11	15
(*438) 460	8	17	22	28½	31½	35½
Nat West 650	35½	45	54½	19½	35	40½
(*658) 700	14	23½	32½	48½	66	69½
Sainsbury 420	17½	26½	30½	11	14½	19½
(*422½) 460	4	10	15½	40	41	44
Shell 700	56½	66½	70	3½	10½	14
(*741) 750	21½	32½	38½	18½	31½	34½
Smith Bch 600	54½	66½	76	6½	13½	18
(*642½) 650	25	35½	46½	25	33	38½
Stanchrte 300	19½	26	31½	8	11	14
(*318) 330	6½	12½	17	25	27½	30
Trafalgar 20	6½	7½	9	3½	5	6
(*22) 25	5	6	7½	6½	8½	9½
Unilever 1200	66	85½	98½	12	25	30½
(*1245) 1250	33½	56½	69	30	47	51½
Zeneca 1150	77	103	123½	33½	54	64½
(*1170½) 1200	51	76	96½	56½	78	87½

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met 420	26	46½	61	3	10½	13
(*453) 460	10	23	38½	18½	29½	31
Ladbroke 160	11	17	19	2	4½	6½
(*169) 180	1	6½	9	11½	14	17
Utd Biscs 280	13½	23	28	9½	12½	16½
(*287½) 300	6½	14	19	18	23½	28

October 19, 1995 Tot: 40500 Call: 17078 Put: 23428 FT-SE Call: 6513 Put: 5143

*=Underlying security price.

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA 460	43½	55½	60½	5	8	11½
(*456½) 500	17½	30	36	19	25	27
Thames W 500	37½	48	56½	11	16	20
(*526½) 550	14	25	31½	38	42½	52½

| |

Marianne Curphey explains why BA is watching the crossfire

Air talks threaten major turbulence

Just when the airline industry appeared to be over the worst of its turbulence, USAir's announcement that it was in potential merger talks with American Airlines and United sent the markets reaching for their seatbelts.

Sceptics in the City believe the deal has only a 50 per cent chance of success, but say that if it does, it will be the most significant development in the airline industry for several years.

Should the deal proceed, the suitor would emerge as the largest air carrier group in the US. If the successful partner is United Airlines, which many believe to be the most likely, both British Airways, which has a 25 per cent stake in USAir, and American, will be seeking to forge new alliances to match it.

The news prompted speculation that a USAir deal would be only the first of a raft of mergers and takeovers to sweep the industry. In fact, it is far more likely to lead to increased international alliances, including more flight-code sharing, between national airlines, and some consolidation in the US domestic market rather than a spate of intercontinental acquisitions.

The reason lies at the heart of the industry. In spite of attempts to deregulate aviation, national governments are still fiercely protective of their flag carriers. Any national airline that is more than 50 per cent owned and controlled by an airline from another country loses its privileged operating licence and the priority it receives over landing slots.

The EU will soon scrap that rule in Europe, and by 1997 will allow point-to-point domestic services to be run by foreign airlines, but this will not affect networks outside Europe.

For that reason, it is cheaper and easier for airlines to forge alliances and combine marketing and frequent-flyer programmes than to take over one another. Over the past four years, code-sharing deals doubled to more than 400 worldwide as carriers used them as a way round regulations preventing them flying freely between two airports.

About 70 per cent of these transactions are small-scale deals between national and regional carriers, but the rest involve deals between much larger carriers. One of the most successful examples of cross-border alliances is the 1992 deal between KLM, the Dutch airline, and Northwest Airlines, the US carrier, in which it has a 25 per cent equity stake.

The airlines were granted immunity from US anti-trust laws as part of a bilateral air-service agreement between The Netherlands and the US. They now have an integrated brand for business travellers, and set prices together.

KLM and Northwest are estimated to have increased their combined market share in transatlantic flights from 7 to 11 per cent, equivalent to an extra 350,000 passengers a year, with cost-saving benefits of about $300 million.

Such alliances allow airlines to offer passengers an extended route network without having to lay on extra services themselves. The best partnerships are between thosewith little or no route overlap, for example, Lufthansa and United, which have a total of 400 routes but only a couple in common. Neither have cemented the relationship with an equity stake, but United has publicly announced it values the deal.

Delta, which has a code-sharing agreement with Virgin, has had a 5 per cent stake in Swissair for several years and enjoyed a successful partnership. It has no equity stake in Virgin.

BA's deals, however, have been less successful. The stock market regards a bid for USAir as a potentially profitable way for BA to extricate itself from the unprofitable investment it bought two years ago. USAir has lost $3 billion over the past five years, forcing BA to write down its $400 million holding by about half last May.

Nevertheless, Caroline Slater, Kleinwort Benson's airline analyst, estimates BA's alliance with USAir has brought it $100 million in cost savings and increased traffic. BA's ership with Qantas could bring it a further $50 million.

Mike Powell, of NatWest Markets, believes the chances of USAir being acquired by one of the large US carriers are only 50-50 because of the unresolved problems between it and the unions with which it is trying to negotiate reduction in wage costs.

He said: "USAir has been working very hard to sort the problems out, but it is wrong to assume a new manager could walk in and be able to clear up the problem right away. BA is not entirely in the driving seat, but is keeping its fingers very firmly crossed that it emerges from this deal with an improved alliance in the United States."

BA's other experiments with alliances include Deutsche BA, in which it has a 49 per cent equity stake (the remainder is held by the banks); Qantas, in which it has a 25 per cent stake, and TAT, an independent French carrier in which it has a 40 per cent stake. It is too early to predict the cost savings of the Qantas deal, but Ms Slater said: "The Qantas deal allows both airlines to switch aircraft to areas where demand is high. When it is peak season in Australia BA can send some of its aircraft there." However, the TAT and Deutsche BA ventures have not been as successful as BA had hoped.

Kleinwort's Ms Slater believes that if the USAir deal goes ahead it could be the first step in a new generation of super-groups of airline alliances across the globe.

"You can see them forming already," she said. Most successful groupings are KLM-Northwest; BA-USAir, Delta-Swissair-Singapore Airlines-Virgin, and Lufthansa-United-SAS-South African Airways-Thai Airways. These groupings will expand and develop into the next century as carriers look for partners who will help them cover the globe."

Alliances, however, are not carved in stone. Rumours have circulated that all is not well between Virgin and Delta, and Delta would certainly be the ideal partner for BA, should United acquire USAir, because there is little overlap between routes.

According to a survey carried out by the Boston Consulting Group, fewer than 40 per cent of regional and 30 per cent of international alliances have been successful. It cites deals between Air France-Canadian Airlines and Qantas-Japan Airlines that have fallen through in recent years.

The Civil Aviation Authority in Britain says it is monitoring the growth in alliances to ensure they do not stifle competition, but adds that it is very unlikely to take any action.

One of the most successful code-sharers on this side of the Atlantic is British Midland, which has 11 short- and long-haul deals but says it wants another four by the middle of next year. BM is in the third year of a deal with United under which passengers may, for example, fly from Los Angeles to Glasgow. It is a deal without equity stakes which Austin Reid, managing director of BM, describes as a "win-win" situation. "We get extra business and United gets extra destinations."

The attraction of BM for partners lies in its right to 13 per cent of all slots at Heathrow, which amounts to 1,000 flights at week. It has code-sharing agreements, but no equity holdings in American, Air Canada, Virgin, Malaysian, Cathay Pacific, SAS, Austrian, Alitalia, Iberia and TAP. It is looking for partners in the Far East, Japan and South Africa, and watching carefully the developments with USAir.

Mr Reid said: "It is hard to say what the effect of a merger would be. Given United's tie-up with Lufthansa, it is unlikely to do a deal with BA, but a tie-up between BA and American could have a detrimental effect on our current arrangements."

However, Kevin O'Toole, business editor of *Flight* magazine, believes further consolidation within the airline industry is inevitable.

"USAir's announcement that it is in talks with American and United puts everything else up for grabs," he said. "Whoever closes the deal with be one-and-a-half times bigger than any other carrier, which means there will be a scramble among the others to catch up."



A successful deal involving USAir and United could prompt British Airways and American to join a scramble to forge new alliances

The discreet revolution in industrial relations

Denis MacShane reports on a shift towards works councils

The news that NatWest is joining the burgeoning list of British companies setting up works councils marked a significant new development in the long-running saga of British workplace representation.

If the battle cry of the 1970s was "All Power to the Unions!", the discussion in the 1990s has moved on to working out how best to provide a voice for employees without interfering in the relentless struggle of managers seeking to succeed in a competitive global economy.

After a decade and a half of social exclusion, trade union leaders are enjoying the effects of the impact of European legislation which obliges big companies with operations in two or more European countries to set up works councils. The paradox of Mr Major's opt-out from the Maastricht treaty social clauses, is that if Britain had agreed to participate, ministers and civil servants might have been able to delay or influence the various directives that the other European states can now agree without reference to UK needs.

To score points in the internal Conservative Party war over Europe, Mr Major sacrificed the long-term interests of those British managers who believe that institutional representation rights for their employees should be shunned like the plague. But instead, as they are obliged to set up works councils, managers are finding that the very devil from whose embraces Mr Major sought to protect them, is actually a warm, cuddly beast that both strengthens management and provides employees with a sense of a stake in their company. United Biscuits, once the most high-profile of Conservative Party supporters, reports satisfaction with the workings of its Euro works council, while NatWest's director of human resources argues that the global works council NatWest is setting up will benefit the business.

Understandably, trade union leaders are crowing about bosses having to abide by European rules and are delighted that after 16 years in which legally enforced workplace representation has been a no-go area for British policy, companies are now agreeing to co-chair works councils with elected representatives from the workforce. But underneath the political point-scoring, a more fundamental shift is taking place with important long-term implications for the organisation of British industrial relations.

Broadly speaking, there are two dominant theories of workplace representation. The first is the American adversarial one in which all powers rests with the union. The second is the continental European social-partnership model which is based on a dual-track representation. Works councils in the workplace represent the individual rights of workers with trade unions outside the workplace but controlling national or industrially based wage-setting and seeking to influence social policy generally.

Since the 1930s, American unions have had a legal right to recognition. If a majority of employees want to be represented by a union, then the company has to concede a mandatory closed shop in a majority of states. Thus, the big US car firms like Ford and GM have closed-shop agreements with the United Auto Workers Union and no other union is allowed to represent or organise car workers. Labour's proposals to mandate union recognition where a majority of employees want it, are taken from US practice. The only difficulty is that American unions have found that in many companies, the employees do not want union representation. To the consternation and dismay of American unions, recognition agreements have declined in the past three decades as securing the 50 per cent support in the workplace proves impossible. Moreover, the 50 per cent rule works both ways. Employers can also organise ballots of members to secure union derecognition and with all the panoply of propaganda and other anti-union threats at their disposal they have reduced trade union density and collective bargaining coverage in the US to the lowest of any OECD country.

> Employers can also organise ballots to secure union derecognition

The European model is quite diffent. Ford in Germany, for example, has no recognition agreement with IG Metall, the 3 million-strong German manufacturing workers union. Instead, Ford deals directly with its works council on workplace problems and only indirectly with IG Metall on pay matters via the employers federation.

The works council's officials all happen to be IG Metall members and the unions devote resources to training them so that they are effective employee representatives. Often there is a tension between the works councils and the union, notably on the question of working hours where works councils have been more flexible than formal on union policy guidelines. But the tension is creative and a three-way dialogue between works council, management and union allows European workplace relations to avoid the all-or-nothing approach in the American model.

Open the whole, British workplace representation follows the American model though the century-old tradition of voluntary, rather than legally-enforced agreements, has led to more recogniton deals even under the anti-union Conservatives than in the United States. Yet the gap between British and European practice remains stark. In every continental European country, workers have statutory rights to be represented and consulted via various forms of works councils. In Britain, if a company is non-union, the employee simply has no rights of consultation or representation at all.

But the irony of current practice and thinking of workplace representation is that while more and more British employers are buying into the European model of works councils, the direction of Labour Party and TUC thinking is towards the American model of legal ballots which will impose union recognition where a majority of workers require it.

The moral or democratic case for the latter is unanswerable but the evidence appears to suggest that workers may be more effectively represented by works councils co-operating closely with unions acting as pay negotiating bodies.

☐ *Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, is writing a book on the global labour market.*


Ford of Germany will only deal indirectly with IG Metall via the employers federation

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Chancellor on the Internet

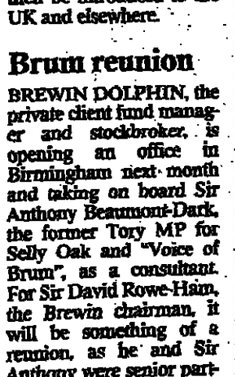
IT HAD to happen. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) is launching a simple tax model via the Internet, giving computer buffs the chance to play Chancellor.

Power freaks will be able to alter the nation's income tax system, vary National Insurance contributions, change the price of beer or cigarettes, and so on, and then plot the effects on a range of typical families. They will also be able to assess the impact on government tax revenues. The model will be amended on Budget night to allow users to enter their circumstances, and see how changes affect them. The service is obtainable from noon on Monday on the IFS's own server (http://www.ifs.org.uk/).

On the buses

JOHN PRESCOTT, deputy leader of the Labour Party, seemed to be suffering something of an identity crisis at the Prebon Yamane annual housing finance seminar in the City yesterday. Perhaps distracted by the changes in the Shadow Cabinet, and harking back to his days as Shadow transport spokesman, he answered a question about how the public and private sectors should work together on providing housing finance with a diatribe about how privatisation had destroyed the bus system. Baffled — you will be.

IT IS unwise to raise your hand at auction, as City PR supremo Rupert Ashe discovered to his horror this week. Ashe unwittingly joined the bidding for the services of an interior designer, at a bash at the Savoy on Wednesday, and ended up paying £1,500.



"I distinctly heard a profit warning"

Accelerate

NOT TO be outdone in the quest for the ultimate cult drink, Guinness, through its spirits arm United Distillers, is making its first foray into the designer alcohol market with the launch today of its contender for the role, a drink called XLR8. Aimed at the twentysomething crowd, the drink — say it letter by letter and you'll get the idea — is making its worldwide debut in Australia. If all goes well, the drink will then be introduced to the UK and elsewhere.

Brum reunion

BREWIN DOLPHIN, the private client fund manager and stockbroker, is opening an office in Birmingham next month and taking on board Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the former Tory MP for Selly Oak and "Voice of Brum", as a consultant. For Sir David Rowe-Ham, the Brewin chairman, it will be something of a reunion, as he and Sir Anthony were senior partners at Smith Keen Cutler in the 1970s before parting ways for the Mansion House and Palace of Westminster respectively.

THE City is to have a new eaterie. Peter Gladwin, who looks after catering at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall, among other things, is opening Gladwins, in Minster Court, on November 6. As Gladwin owns Nutbourne Vineyards in West Sussex it will doubtless have a fine selection of English wine.

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Salomon blow as Buffett takes cash instead of shares

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

A SHADOW fell over Salomon Brothers yesterday when Warren Buffett, its largest shareholder, switched $140 million of his holding of preferred stock into cash instead of into the ordinary shares of the New York investment bank.

The move was interpreted by many on Wall Street as a vote of no-confidence in Salomon by the Omaha investor, which could lead to the bank being put up for sale.

His withdrawal also raised questions about the future of Robert Denham, the chairman, and Deryck Maughan, the English chief executive, both of whom were installed by Mr Buffett.

Mr Buffett has stood behind Salomon during a period when it faced a string of losses, regulatory problems and staff defections. However, he tried to dispel fears that he was no longer willing to support Salomon. "The decision not to exercise in no way predicts what I will decide when each of the four remaining options expire," he said. It did not mean he was negative about the company, he said.

One Wall Street analyst said: "Whatever Warren Buffett says, everyone knows that Salomon is not in great shape and that he has been losing patience with it. It wouldn't surprise me if he left Salomon sooner or later to fend for itself."

The news clouded Salomon's announcement that the three months to September 30 had been its most profitable for two years, with net income of $268 million, compared with a loss of $242 million at the same time last year. However, the result still leaves the bank with a profit of only $289 million for the first nine months of the year.

The bank said that the result reflects strong performances in client-related and proprietary trading businesses.

Mr Denham said: "We made money in what, for Salomon, is the old-fashioned way, by effectively serving client needs in our sales and trading, corporate finance, advisory and underwriting businesses."

Mr Buffett acquired his preferred stock with a conversion option in 1987, when he injected $700 million to bail out the struggling bank. Since then, Salomon's share price has crept up to $40.10, slightly above the $38 conversion price.

Salomon's most recent embarrassment was a substantial fine imposed last week by securities regulators in London for accounting irregularities. In New York, attempts by Mr Maughan to reduce bonus levels has damaged morale among the staff.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Michael Connolly has nine radio targets in sight

Independent Radio joins AIM

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

INDEPENDENT Radio Group, a company set up to acquire UK local radio stations, has joined the Alternative Investment Market via a £10 million placing that will help it to take advantage of opportunities in the commercial radio sector.

The company, run by an experienced management team formerly with Trans World Communications, the radio group taken over by Emap last year, is initially looking to take over several existing commercial radio stations. It will also use part of the proceeds from its £10 million placing to bid for a number of the new regional radio licences.

Michael Connolly, IRG chief executive, said the company currently has nine "underdeveloped" radio stations in mind. "We hope to have acquired the targets within 12 months," he said.

The Manchester company is likely to incur losses in its first year.

The shares enjoyed a healthy debut on AIM, advancing to 117p on their first day, compared with a placing price of 100p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Receiverships fall to six-year low

THE number of businesses falling into receivership has fallen to its lowest level since 1989. During the third quarter, there were 416 receiverships, down from 508 in the corresponding three months last year. Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG, said: "This is the lowest figure we have recorded in the 1990s, which must add to the cautious optimism we are seeing. However, there still seems to be a certain lack of confidence in the economy, and increasing political uncertainty cannot be advantageous.

"The figures must also reflect the wider acceptance of a rescue culture, where more firms are avoiding receivership by confronting their problems earlier." Manufacturing companies accounted for more than a quarter of all the receiverships, with construction and financial businesses each accounting for 15 per cent of the total.

Coca-Cola sales soar

COCA-COLA said strong sales in the United States, its oldest and strongest market, helped to lift third-quarter profits 13 per cent to $802 million, or 64 cents a share, compared with $708 million, or 55 cents a share last time. Revenues were $4.9 billion, up 10 per cent from $4.5 billion. Case sales grew 8 per cent in the US in the quarter, with a 7 per cent rise in international sales, despite sluggish markets in Mexico, Japan and Argentina. For the first nine months of the year, Coca-Cola, which is based in Atlanta, reported net income of $2.3 billion, or $1.85 per share, up 18 per cent from $2 billion, or $1.54 a share.

Targeting Germany

THE Dublin arm of Scottish Amicable, the life office at the centre of bid-and-merger rumours, made a move yesterday to capture up to 1 per cent of the German market over the next five years with the launch of a flexible whole-life and critical-illness plan. Scottish Amicable said that, working from offices in Frankfurt, it hopes to sell 30,000 policies by the end of the decade. The German population of 80 million represents Europe's largest single insurance market. Clive Cowdery, managing director of Scottish Amicable International, said the German trend was "away from conventional products and towards more flexible unit-linked plans."

Coles Myer board row

COLES MYER, Australia's largest retailer, has given way to heavy pressure from institutional shareholders over a radical restructuring plan by having a boardroom clearout. Solomon Lew will now stand down from the position of chairman and three key non-executive directors have resigned including Will Bailey, deputy chairman. Five new non-executives are to be appointed. The upheaval follows a proposal to split Coles Myer into four separate public companies. The board changes were welcomed by Bankers Trust, AMP and State Super, the company's major institutional shareholders.

Gleeson edges down

PROFITS at MJ Gleeson Group, the building company, edged lower to £8.45 million before tax from £8.9 million in the year to June 30, reflecting difficult trading conditions in the construction sector. Turnover rose to £191.8 million from £174 million but margins suffered as a result of the intense competition for new business. Earnings were 52.66p a share, falling from 58.79p previously. However, the total dividend is lifted to 15p a share from 14.16p, with a final 11.45p due on January 10. The company said prospects for the housing, construction and property sectors remained uncertain.

Malaya warning

MALAYA GROUP, the acquisitive motor group, warned shareholders that trading conditions had continued to deteriorate in the volume car sector, resulting in an expected loss of £600,000 in the Japanese car franchises. The company also said that profitability would be affected by higher than anticipated start-up costs at Big Chief, the used car operation. As a result, the group trading performance for the full year would fall significantly below expectations, the company said. Malaya shares fell to 9¼p from 14p yesterday.

Self Assessment

It's time to tidy up your tax affairs.



Are you getting your house in order, ready for Self Assessment?

If you are self-employed, the changes will certainly affect you. For instance, if you own a business which employs others, are in a partnership (including husband and wife partnerships), a one person business working from home, or self-employed in one job and employed in another.

(It will also apply to everyone else who normally receives a tax return including higher rate tax payers, company directors and some pensioners.)

Self Assessment is not a new tax. Just a more straightforward way of assessing and paying it. The first Self Assessment tax returns will be sent out in April 1997 for the tax year 1996/97.

That may seem a long way off but you'll need to get your tax affairs up to date well before then. If you have any outstanding tax business, don't keep putting it off, sort it out. Or if you're not clear about your tax situation, get in touch with your tax office or accountant to find out exactly where you stand. It will make the change-over to Self Assessment that much easier.

And remember, you must keep adequate records. It's a good idea to have a tax file and keep everything together that might be useful such as receipts, dividend vouchers and other important documents.

Failing to comply with the new rules could cost you interest and penalties. To help you avoid this, there'll be a clear timetable setting out exactly what you need to do and by when.

Self Assessment doesn't mean you'll have to work out your own tax bill. We'll be happy to do it for you. But if you want to do the calculation yourself you'll have a bit longer to get your tax return in.

With any change – even for the better – we understand you may have questions or concerns. We've prepared some free booklets and a video to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

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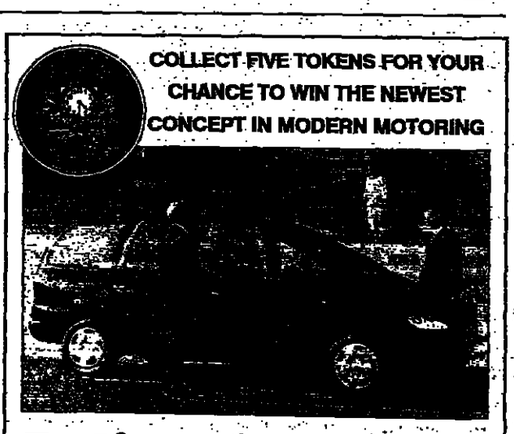
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If you want to see the car it will be on display on stand P6 at the London Motor Show, Earls Court, October 18-29. If you cannot get to the show, ring the Ford Information Service 0345 833 833 and you will be sent information on the Galaxy.

The competition closes on Tuesday, November 21, 1995. The winner will be drawn at random from all entries received by that date.

For your chance to win send your entry to: *The Times*/Galaxy Competition, 30, Bouverie St, London EC88 4NG.

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BARCLAYS

BUSINESS DEPOSITS

Kevin Maxwell says his father was "notoriously bad" at managing paperwork

Son tells of Robert Maxwell's final days


Kevin Maxwell: search for document

KEVIN MAXWELL told a court yesterday of the last conversation he had with his father, Robert, before his mysterious plunge to his death from his luxury boat. Father and son had a wide-ranging conversation over a drink the day before the publisher set off for a short break on *Lady Ghislaine* at the end of October 1991.

Kevin, giving evidence for the fourth day at the Central Criminal Court, said his father was still suffering from a chest infection which he hoped to throw off before flying on to Israel. During their talk, Robert Maxwell told Kevin he had transferred the beneficial ownership of £22 million worth of shares in Teva, the Israeli pharmaceutical concern, from Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which administered the pension funds, to the Robert Maxwell Group (RMG).

His father had done exactly the same thing earlier that year with £100 million worth of shares in Scitex, another Israeli company, before they were sold for a handsome profit. His father had shown him stock transfer forms relating to the Teva shares and explained why he was transferring the ownership.

He saw a "substantial benefit" if the shares were offered as belonging to RMG rather than BIM, "particularly because of the positive PR that would accrue to the group from another successful sale of Israeli assets at a profit", the court heard.

The Scitex shares had been sold amid publicity about the profits they had generated for the Maxwell Group just a few days earlier. Robert Maxwell told his son he would arrange for the reregistration of the Teva shares in RMG's name. Kevin said he believed his father, and thought the shares now belonged to RMG.

Asked by his counsel, Alun Jones, QC, why he thought that, Kevin Maxwell said: "The only explanation I can give is simply years of working with him. In my whole cumulative experience of doing business with him, if he said something he meant it and I relied on what he said to me."

> "If he said something he meant it, and I relied on what he said to me"

That was the last meeting that Kevin Maxwell had with his father before his death, although they spoke by phone once when Robert Maxwell was on his boat.

Earlier, Kevin told the jury that his father was "notoriously bad" at managing the paperwork generated by his complex business deals. He was explaining how he had tried to track down without success a document that his father had shown him in July 1991. It was an amended version of an agreement for RMG to sell the Scitex shares on behalf of BIM. In the amended version, beneficial ownership had been transferred to RMG.

He was asked by Mr Jones if he had seen that amended version since. "Not since that day in my father's office, no," he replied.

Mr Jones pressed him about whether he could throw any light on where it might be. Kevin replied: "If it remained in his office I would expect it to surface among the thousands or millions of pieces of paper held by one administrator or another."

He said he had spent up to eight hours a days searching through Maxwell papers held by Arthur Andersen, the administrators, in a secured deposit warehouse. He said "millions of pages" of documents were at the New York Daily News and Macmillans offices in America, but "regrettably we have not been able to get access".

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing the Teva shares and pledging them as security for a loan. Kevin Maxwell alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his late father to misuse the Scitex shares to pay private Maxwell company debts. The prosecution alleges in both cases that the shares did not belong to RMG but to the pension fund. The case continues.


Robert Maxwell: share transfer

Rubicon to buy Calder for £94m

By Robert Boyd

RUBICON, the Stratford precision engineering company, yesterday announced a proposal to acquire Calder, the engineering and industrial materials group, for £94 million. Calder reported pre-tax profits of £8.1 million on sales of £176.9 million in 1994.

Earlier this year, Rubicon expressed a desire to broaden its activities with a large acquisition. Having been heavily reliant on the information technology sector in the past, Rubicon, formerly Courtney, Pope Holdings, will now add Calder's four divisions — metal castings, magnets, lead products and aluminium alloys — to its precision metal components and electronic assemblies business.

Tim Wightman, managing director of Rubicon, said: "This deal creates a specialist engineering group with leading market positions and the financial strength to deliver world class products and services to an international customer base."

Rubicon's announcement was received positively by analysts who saw it as an important step in the company's attempts to compete with Fullarton, the other market leader, part of the Laird Group. The acquisition means that Rubicon will no longer rely too heavily on just one or two customers. By spreading the risk, the company hopes to be in a better position to expand in the future.

Rubicon aims to raise £15 million gross of additional funds through the issue of new shares to increase the working capital and cover the costs associated with the acquisition. Mr Wightman, who will become chief executive of the enlarged group, went on to outline plans for expansion into the United States. The company is looking for a location in North Carolina for the manufacture of three new products by the second half of 1996.

Tempus, page 28

Trading forecast hurts Ferguson

By Martin Barrow

SHARES in Ferguson International Holdings fell 40p to 268p yesterday after the holding company gave warning that the outlook for the second half of this year was uncertain because of weak retail demand.

The company, which has interests in labels, garment hangers and communications components, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £5.6 million in the half-year to August 31, from £6 million previously. Profits were struck after an exceptional charge of £1.5 million to cover the cost of the hanger division's withdrawal from production in Germany.

The interim dividend is maintained at 4.5p a share, payable December 6 from earnings that fell to 11.7p a share from 11.9p.

Group turnover advanced to £104.4 million from £80.5 million. The 30 per cent increase reflects a full contribution from Elswick, the packaging company acquired for £37.7 million in August 1994. Operating profit rose 32 per cent to £8.5 million from £6.5 million. Interest charges rose to £1.4 million (£400,000).

Denis Cassidy, chairman, said: "Sales in September have been disappointing, reflecting weak retail demand, particularly in clothing, in the summer months." Performance was expected to improve in the final quarter but the outlook remained uncertain.

Caspian to boost Ramco

By Carl Mortished

RAMCO Energy, the Aberdeen oil services company, is expecting a cash flow boost in 1997 from its interest in Caspian Sea oilfields.

The Azerbaijan International Operating Company intends to begin producing oil in late 1996, using two existing pipeline routes for early export.

Ramco has a 2 per cent interest in the international consortium developing the Azeri, Chirag and Gumashli fields in Azerbaijan. These are expected to generate 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) at peak production, but exports will depend on construction of a new pipeline to a seaport.

However, initial production of 70,000 to 100,000 bpd will be exported in 1997, using existing pipelines to Black Sea ports in Russia and Georgia. Steven Bertram, Ramco's financial director, said the decision to use two pipelines reflected concern over costs. "If the pipeline levy is too high we can switch to the other route," he said.

Ramco made pre-tax profits of £585,000 (£268,000) in the half year to June 30, thanks to an increase in oil service activity and a $1.25 million payment from Pennzoil, the US oil company brought into the Caspian Sea project by Ramco. Ramco is currently in dispute with Pennzoil.

There is no interim dividend.

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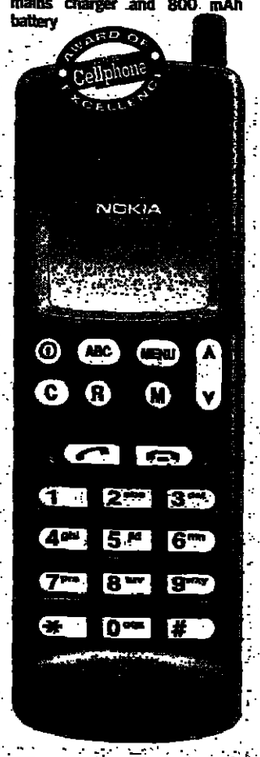
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Rally runs out of steam

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Notice valid without particulars

Giles v Law Society

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Mr Justice Sedley

[Judgment October 11]

A solicitor suspected of dishonesty and served by the Law Society with an intervention notice relating to the conduct of his practice had no right to be given contemporaneously particulars of the alleged dishonesty.

Neither the provisions of Schedule 1 to the Solicitors Act 1974 nor principles of natural justice required that to be done and a notice stating merely that the Law Society had "reason to suspect dishonesty on your part" was a valid notice.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Mr Robert J. B. Giles from Mr Justice Carnwath's refusal on April 12, 1994 to order the withdrawal of the Law Society's intervention notice resolving to vest in itself clients' funds and to refer Mr Giles' conduct to its disciplinary tribunal. The Court further upheld the judge's refusal to order the withdrawal of a second notice served on Mr Giles that was founded on the failure to comply with the Solicitors Accounts Rules 1991.

Mr Giles was a sole practitioner at Hillearys, London. In 1992 a report prepared for the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau identified a shortfall in his client account.

Following further investigations in October 1994 the Law Society's adjudication and appeals committee resolved to exercise powers under paragraph 6 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Solicitors Act 1974 by ordering the vesting in the society of moneys held by Mr Giles, the transfer to it of certain documents and to refer Mr Giles' conduct to the disciplinary tribunal.

By letter of November 10, the first notice of intervention, the committee wrote to Mr Giles that it had "reason to suspect dishonesty on your part" and making known its decision. Mr Giles applied to the High Court by way of originating summons under paragraph 6(4) of the Schedule for an order directing the society to withdraw the notice.

On November 12, Mr Giles was further notified, the second notice of intervention, of the society's findings of failure to comply with certain of the 1991 Rules. He also applied for its withdrawal.

Section 35 of the 1974 Act provided that the powers given to the Law Society and specified in Part II of Schedule 1 should be exercisable in the circumstances specified in Part 1 of the Schedule where paragraph 1(1) provided the powers were exercisable where the Law Society "(a) . . . have reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of— (i) a solicitor . . . in connection with that solicitor's practice. . ."

Mr Ian McCulloch and Miss Rebecca Bensted for Mr Giles; Mr Timothy J. Dutton for the Law Society.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the primary submission made for Mr Giles was that a solicitor to whom a notice of intervention based on the grounds set out in paragraph 1(1)(a) of Schedule 1 to the 1974 Act was given had a right to be given either in the notice or contemporaneously with it particulars of the suspected dishonesty and the reasons for suspecting it, in default of which the notice was invalid and had to be ordered to be withdrawn.

The conclusive answer to that submission was to be found in *Yogarajah v Law Society* (unreported, May 21, 1982), another case of intervention for suspected dishonesty where the solicitor claimed that the rules of natural justice required that not only was he to be given notice of the case against him, but also a fair opportunity to meet it before the notice was given.

In rejecting that submission Mr Justice Walton had relied on the speech of Lord Hailsham, Vice-Chancellor, in *Pearlberg v Varty* ([1972] 1 WLR 534, 540), where the House of Lords had held that in giving leave for a back duty tax assessment to be made the taxpayer was not to be given an opportunity of being heard at the hearing of the application.

Mr Justice Walton had then considered the provisions of Schedule 1 in the light of Lord Hailsham's observations and summarised his views thus:

"This provides a simple and sensible statutory scheme; on one hand enabling the Law Society to act swiftly when the possibility of mischief becomes apparent and, on the other hand, enabling the solicitor, against whom such action is taken, to apply as swiftly to the court to obtain a suspension of such activity on its behalf.

"I see no necessity for complicating this scheme and so, in effect, depriving it of its essential characteristic, swiftness of action, by the introduction of the concept of natural justice into a category of situations, a reason for suspicions, into which it does not sensibly fit."

For the reasons stated by Mr Justice Walton and on a careful construction of the provisons of Schedule 1, there was no requirement that at the time that a notice of intervention under paragraph 1(1)(a) was given for the solicitor to be given particulars of the suspected dishonesty or the reasons for suspecting it.

If he applied to the High Court under paragraph 6 of the Schedule he would have the opportunity, as Mr Giles had, of knowing what the case against him was and of answering it.

Under those provisions that was the point of judicial determination when, in Lord Hailsham's words he "will be given a reasonable opportunity of presenting his case at the proper time".

Mr McCulloch accepted that if the appeal in regard to the first intervention failed then that in regard to the second intervention would become academic. He also accepted that he could not ask the court to interfere with the judge's findings or with the exercise of his discretion.

Lord Justice Ward and Mr Justice Sedley gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Preston-Rouse & Co; Wright Son & Pepper.

Legal aid irrelevant to forum

Connelly v RTZ Corporation plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton-Thomas

[Judgment August 18]

The availability or otherwise of legal aid assistance within alternative jurisdictions where a case might be tried was not a relevant consideration to be taken into account when applying the principles of forum non conveniens and deciding which would be the most appropriate jurisdiction for the trial.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, against an order of Sir John Wood, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, that had stayed proceedings brought in England against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Services Ltd, upon the ground that Namibia was the forum in which the case should be tried.

Section 31 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provides: "(1) . . . (b) the rights conferred by this Act on a person receiving advice, assistance or representation under it shall not affect the rights or liabilities of other parties to the proceedings or the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised."

Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr James Cameron for the plaintiff; Mr Brian Doctor for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants claiming damages for negligence on the ground that he contracted cancer while working in Namibia for a subsidiary of the first defendants as a result of their negligence in failing to provide a safe system of work affording protection from the effects of ore dust while he was working in a uranium mine.

The plaintiff accepted that Namibia was prima facie the jurisdiction with which the claim had the most real and substantial connection.

His appeal was based on the ground that he was wholly without means and the judge had found that it was virtually certain that he would not receive legal aid in Namibia to fund professional representation and the costs of procuring witnesses.

It was common ground that his claim was one which, because of its complexity and dependence on the evidence of experts both on the technical and medical issues, it would be impossible for him to sustain without legal aid in any jurisdiction.

In England, on the other hand, legal aid would be available to provide all necessary resources to pursue the claim.

The plaintiff had relied from first to last on the proposition that since it was a practical impossibility for him to fund litigation in Namibia it was a legal impossibility for the English court to be satisfied that Namibia represented a forum "in which the case may be tried more suitably to the interests of all parties and the ends of justice"; see *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Consuler Ltd* ([1987] 1 AC 460).

It was a proposition which enforced consideration of fundamentals. The defendants had suggested that the court might be spared a full confrontation with the issue by treating legal aid as something which could be accepted as relevant but not treated as decisive.

His Lordship did not think that refuge could be found in middle ground of that kind. Legal aid was either wholly in as a relevant factor or wholly out.

The court had to ask itself: If proceedings that had only a tenuous connection with England were started here by a plaintiff who was impecunious but eligible for legal aid and there was a foreign jurisdiction with which the action had the most real and substantial connection but in which the impecunious plaintiff would be ineligible for assistance, was the English court bound, by reason alone of the plaintiff's eligibility for legal aid in the one jurisdiction and ineligibility in the other, to refuse a stay?

Faced with a case like the present, where the plaintiff had contracted a serious illness with permanent disabling consequences, it was tempting on purely humanitarian grounds to answer the question "Yes"; it would be better to have such claims heard in an inappropriate forum that submit to their not being heard at all.

But when the question was answered according to law, putting aside the special considerations of sympathy to which the particular plaintiff was entitled, the response had to be "No".

The reasons for that were as follows:

1 This was an area of the law in which considerations of international comity were important, the objective being to achieve a broad consensus among major common law jurisdictions. The essence of that consensus was a shared resolve to ensure that actions were tried in the forum with which they had the most real and substantial connection. It would be disruptive of that purpose if local considerations of legal aid eligibility were allowed to interfere with it.

The main concern of the doctrine was with the forum in each country, that was to say the juridical and forensic facilities available to ensure a fair trial, not the extent to which the executive arm of the state had made funds available to assist its subjects to have access to those facilities.

The relevant consideration was forum conveniens not fiscus conveniens.

2 Issues of forum non conveniens required by their nature to be resolved when litigation was still at an early stage and in many cases as a matter of urgency. It would seldom be possible or desirable to undertake more than an impressionistic survey of the competing features of the two regimes.

It would not be helpful to such a survey for the court to become involved in having to make comparisons between the many and varied forms of public assistance for litigation available in different countries, making value judgments between them.

3 The exclusion extended only to considerations of legal aid, that was to say public assistance of one form or another. Private resources remained relevant for consideration. So that if exchange controls, for example, resulted in a plaintiff's resources being blocked in one country so as not to be available in the other that would be an entirely proper consideration for the court to take into account.

4 The exclusion of considerations of legal aid was consistent with section 31(1)(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1988.

The judge had, therefore, been right to grant a stay of the English proceedings and to treat the non-availability of legal aid for the plaintiff in the courts of Namibia as irrelevant to his decision.

Lord Justice Swinton-Thomas and Lord Justice Neill delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Wide discretion for judge in case management

Thermawear Ltd v Linton and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment October 17]

The Court of Appeal would be most reluctant to interfere with procedural decisions made by a trial judge in the management of the case before him, and would accord him a generous margin of appreciation in the exercise of his discretion in respect of such decisions.

The Court of Appeal so stated (i) granting the plaintiff, Thermawear Ltd, leave to appeal from Mr Justice Lightman who on October 11 had concluded that specified issues raised in the action in negligence brought by the plaintiff against, inter alia, the second defendant, Citroen Wells, a firm, should be tried ahead of other issues between the parties and (ii) dismissing the plaintiff's appeal.

The judge had concluded that if the specified issues were tried first and decided against the plaintiff, its action had to fail and the costs of exploring any other issue could thus be avoided.

Mr Robin Potts, QC and Mr Michael Todd for the plaintiff; Mr Leslie Kosmin, QC and Mr Derrick Dale for the second defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that on one view the plaintiff's application for leave to appeal raised a simple question of procedural practice. On another view it raised issues of wider significance touching on the procedural powers to be exercised by trial judges and on the proper approach of the Court of Appeal when such powers were exercised. For that reason leave was granted.

His Lordship referred to and rejected the plaintiff's criticisms of the judge's decision, in particular, that the judge's formulation of the issues was unsatisfactory, that there had already been delays, that it posed a risk of duplication of evidence and of increased costs if one issue were tried ahead of other issues and then the other issues had to be tried and that witnesses would be inconvenienced.

His Lordship set out the reasoning given by the judge in which he had referred to *Practice Direction (Civil Litigation: Case Management) (The Times* January 25, 1995; [1995] 1 WLR 508) and to observations of Lord Roskill and Lord Templeman in *Ashmore v Corporation of Lloyd's* ([1992] 1 WLR 446, 448, 453-454).

In his Lordship's view those observations and that *Practice Direction* were to be read against a growing recognition that the luxurious approach to the expenditure of court time was a luxury of the past, indulged in at the expense of litigants as a whole, which could no longer be afforded.

The judge's decision might not save time and expense if the issues were determined in the plaintiff's favour, nor, if the decision was in the second defendant's favour and an appeal were successful, but it was the type of decision which fell fairly and squarely within the growing procedural decision-making ambit of the trial judge. The Court of Appeal would be most reluctant to interfere unless satisfied that the trial judge was wrong.

His Lordship was not only not satisfied the judge was wrong, but satisfied that he was right. It was an appropriate order and the judge had not overlooked any relevant factor. There was no ground on which the Court of Appeal could properly interfere and the appeal would therefore be dismissed.

Lord Justice Henry gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Walker Morris, Leeds; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Re-listing appeals after refusal

Regina v Blake

In the future, where an application for leave to appeal was refused on a non-counsel basis any application to relist on a counsel basis would be referred to a judge of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, and the court would be reluctant to relist unless satisfied that before the hearing as a non-counsel application counsel had been prepared to appear and his non-appearance was due to a failure of communication beyond the applicant's control.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on October 4 when allowing an application by Dean Blake to relist his renewed application for leave to appeal against a total sentence of five years imprisonment imposed on August 3, 1994 by Judge Simmons at Snaresbrook Crown Court for offences of offering to supply and supplying crack cocaine. Having heard argument on the application, their Lordships refused leave to appeal.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in *R v Daniel* ([1977] QB 364, 370) Lord Justice Lawton had said: "This court will not be willing to relist unless, before the date of the abortive hearing, the registrar of the court had been informed in writing that counsel would be instructed."

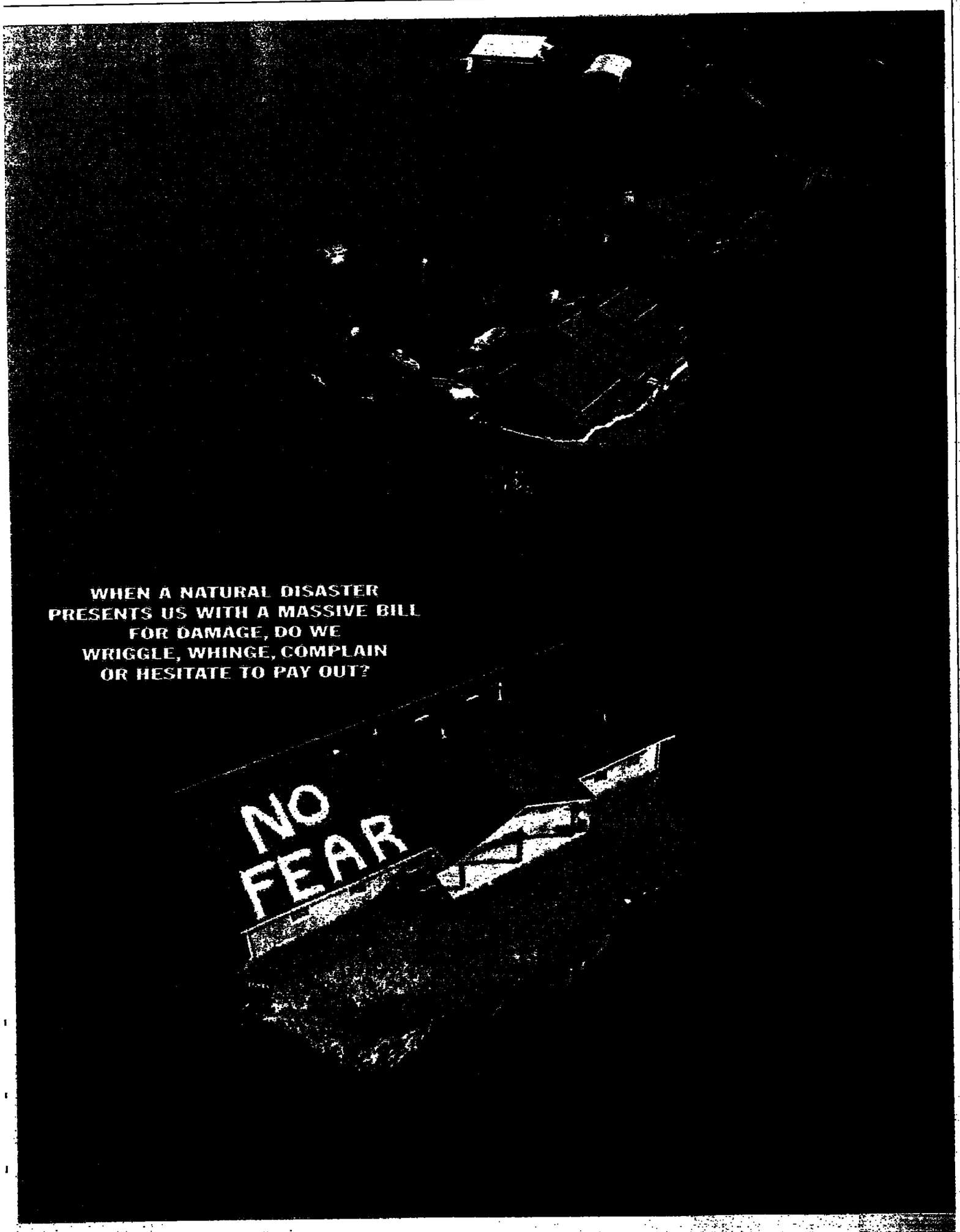
However if, as in the present case, the court was satisfied that counsel had been prepared at all stages to come and argue the matter and his failure to appear was only due to some administrative failure for which the applicant was not responsible, the application would be relisted.

Regina v Dowling

In addition to what was said in *R v Blake* (*The Times* October 20, 1995), their Lordships would emphasise that it was desirable that on receiving information that the single judge has refused leave to appeal, if intending to appear on a pro bono basis on a renewed application counsel should notify the office of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, to that effect within 14 days.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on October 4, when allowing an application by Matthew Joseph Dowling to relist his application for leave to appeal against his conviction on September 1, 1994 at Luton Crown Court (Judge Rodwell, QC and a jury) of assault with intent to rob, on which he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in the instant case their Lordships were satisfied that it would be unjust to refuse to relist the application, but in all the circumstances leave would be refused.



Last year, when heavy snow led to floods in Pennsylvania, we spent £8.5 million drying home-owners' eyes. When hailstones the size of cricket balls caught Cologne off guard, we finded £2.5 million to repair the damage. Backed by £15 billion of assets, at work in 50 countries we possess the worldly financial strength to look after the interests of the five million people around the world who have policies with us. And that commitment is one thing we'll never make heavy weather of.
BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE
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House of Lords Law Report October 20 1995 Court of Appeal

Damages for pregnancy dismissal

Webb v EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd (No 2)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn of Hadley

[Speeches October 19]

Sections 1(1)(a) and 5(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 were to be interpreted, in accordance with a ruling of the European Court of Justice, as meaning that, in a case where a woman was engaged for an indefinite period, the fact that the reason why she would be temporarily unavailable for work at a time when to her knowledge her services would be particularly required was pregnancy was a circumstance relevant to her case, being a circumstance that could not be present in the case of the hypothetical man.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Mrs Carole Louise Webb from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Beldam) (*The Times* December 30, 1991; [1992] ICR 445) who had affirmed the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (*The Times* February 21, 1990; [1990] ICR 442) of her appeal from an industrial tribunal, which had held that she had not been *discriminated against on the* ground of her sex when she had been dismissed by the respondent employers, EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd.

Article 2 of Council Directive 76/207/EEC, the equal treatment directive (OJ 1976 L39 p40) provides: "(1) . . . the principle of equal treatment shall mean that there *shall be no discrimination* whatsoever on grounds of sex either directly or indirectly by reference in particular to marital or family status."

Article 5 provides: "(1) Application of the principle of equal treatment with regard to working conditions, including the conditions *governing dismissal*, means that men and women shall be guaranteed the same conditions without discrimination on grounds of sex."

Section 1 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 provides: "(1) A person discriminated against a woman in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if — (a) on the ground of her sex he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man . . ."

Section 5 of the 1975 Act provides: "(3) A comparison of the cases of persons of different sex or marital status under section 1(1) . . . must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are *the same, or not materially* different, in the other."

Mrs Laura Cox, QC and Miss Deborah King for Mrs Webb; Mr David Pannick, QC, as amicus curiae; the employers were not represented.

LORD KEITH said that Mrs Webb had been engaged by EMO with a view to replacing a pregnant employee, Mrs Stewart, during the latter's *maternity* leave. Shortly afterwards, she had *discovered that she herself* was pregnant, her baby being expected at roughly the same time as Mrs Stewart's, and EMO had dismissed her.

It had been held by the industrial tribunal, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords (*The Times* December 3, 1992; [1993] 1 WLR 49; [1993] ICR 175) that on a proper construction of the relevant provisions of the 1975 Act her dismissal had not constituted unlawful discrimination against her on the ground of her sex.

However, it had appeared to the House of Lords that it was necessary to obtain a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice of the European Communities (*The Times* July 15, 1994; [1994] QB 718) on the true construction of article 2(1) of the equal treatment directive to see whether Mrs Webb's dismissal in the circumstances of the case had been contrary to article 2(1) and, if so, to consider whether the provisions of the 1975 Act could be *construed to accord with the* European Court's ruling.

The question referred to the Luxembourg court had been:

"Is it discrimination on grounds of *sex contrary to Directive 76/207* for an employer to dismiss a female employee . . . (a) whom he engaged for the specific purpose of replacing (after training) another female employee during the latter's forthcoming maternity leave, (b) when, very shortly after appointment, the employer discovers that the applicant herself will be absent on maternity leave during the maternity leave of the *other employee, and the* employer dismisses her because he needs the job-holder to be at work during that period, (c) had the employer known of the pregnancy of the applicant at the date of appointment, she would not have been appointed, and (d) the employer *would similarly have dismissed a* male employee engaged for this purpose who required leave of absence at the relevant time for medical or other reasons?"

The European Court's answer to the question submitted had been: ". . . article 2(1) read with article 5(1) . . . precludes dismissal of an employee who is recruited for an unlimited term with a view, initially, to replacing another employee during the latter's *maternity* leave and who cannot do so because, shortly after recruitment, she is herself found to be pregnant."

It was apparent from the court's ruling that it had been considered to be a relevant circumstance that Mrs Webb had been engaged for an indefinite or unlimited period. That suggested the possibility of a *distinction between such a case* and the case where a woman's absence *due to pregnancy would* have the consequence of her being unavailable for the whole of the work for which she had been engaged, for example, where the work was of purely *seasonal* duration or where staff was required for some specific event such as the Wimbledon fortnight or the Olympic Games.

If such a situation did not fall to be distinguished, the result would be likely to be seen as unfair to employers and as tending to bring the sex discrimination law into *disrepute*.

The reasoning in his Lordship's speech in the earlier proceedings had been to the effect that the relevant circumstance that had existed in the present case and that should be taken to be present in the *case of the hypothetical man had been unavailability for work at the* time when the worker had been particularly required, and that the reason for that unavailability had not been a relevant circumstance. So it was not relevant that the reason for the woman's unavailability had been pregnancy, a *condition that could not have been* present in a man.

It seemed to his Lordship that the only way of fitting the terms of the test of unlawful discrimination in sections 1(1)(a) and 5(3) of the 1975 Act into the European Court's ruling was to hold that, in a case where a woman was engaged for an indefinite period, the fact that *the reason why she would* be temporarily unavailable for work at a time when to her knowledge her services would be particularly required was pregnancy was a *circumstance relevant to her case*, being a circumstance that could *not be present in the case of the* hypothetical man.

It did not necessarily follow that pregnancy would be a relevant circumstance in the situation *where the woman was* denied employment for a fixed period in *the future during the whole of* which her pregnancy would make her unavailable for work, nor in the situation where after engagement for such a period the discovery of her pregnancy led to cancellation of the engagement.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and remit the case to the industrial tribunal to assess compensation.

Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Susan James, *Hillingdon*: Treasury Solicitor.

Whether words capable of being libellous

Gillick v British Broadcasting Corporation and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment October 19]

The words spoken by a participant in a discussion on a live television programme that, "there were at least two reported cases of suicide by girls who were pregnant" after *the success of a legal battle in the* Court of Appeal in 1984 by a well known campaigner opposed to the availibility of contraceptive advice to young girls, were capable of *bearing the defamatory meaning* that the campaigner was morally responsible for those deaths.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Millett dissenting, when dismissing an appeal by the defendants, the *British Broadcasting Corporation* and Mrs Susan Pearce, from the decision of Sir Michael Davies, who, sitting as a High Court judge on the trial of a preliminary issue, decided on March 4 in favour of the plaintiff, Mrs Victoria Gillick, that those words were capable of bearing a defamatory meaning.

On July 27, 1989 the BBC broadcast a live television programme entitled "The Garden Party" in which Mrs Gillick, the presenter Ms Caron Keating, and the second defendant took part. The subject of the discussion was the provision of advice on contra*ception to young girls*.

Mrs Gillick was well known as a campaigner strongly opposed to the availibity of such advice, which she believed encouraged young girls to engage in promiscuous sexual activities. Mrs Pearce, a journalist, by contrast strongly supported the availibility of such advice, which she believed reduced the incidence of unprotected intercourse and unwanted pregnancies among those who received it.

In 1982 Mrs Gillick had brought legal proceedings to procure the withdrawal of a circular to general practitioners which stated that it *was permissible to give contra*ceptive advice to under-age girls without the consent of their parents. Her action succeeded in the Court of Appeal in 1984 ([1986] AC 112) but failed, by a narrow majority, in the House of Lords in 1985 ([1986] AC 112).

In support of her position, Mrs Gillick had asserted on the programme that the number of underage pregnancies had reduced *after she won the battle in 1984*. To that assertion Mrs Pearce responded with the words complained of. Mrs Gillick then brought the present action for libel.

Mr Andrew Caldecott, QC, for the defendants; Mrs Gillick in person.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that it was important to bear in mind that the judge's decision was on the question of law whether the words complained of were capable *of bearing the meaning alleged in* paragraph 7 of the amended statement of claim. The actual meaning had yet to be determined.

Nevertheless, it was helpful to refer to recent guidance given by Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, in *Skuse v Granada Television Ltd* (unreported, March 30, 1993) in which he set out the principles on which the court had approached the task of deciding *the meaning to be attributed to the* words used in that case.

His Lordship would summarise the relevant principles as follows:

1 The court should give to the material complained of the natural and ordinary meaning which it would have conveyed to the ordinary reasonable viewer watching the programme once.

2 The hypothetical reasonable reader or viewer was not naive but *he was not unduly suspicious*. He could read between the lines. He could read in an implication more readily than an lawyer and might indulge in a certain amount of *loose thinking*. But he must be treated as being a man who was not avid for scandal and someone who did not, and should not, select one bad meaning where other non-*defamatory meanings* were available.

3 *While limiting its attention to* what the defendant had actually said or written the court should be cautious of an over-elaborate analysis of the material in issue.

4 *A television audience would not* give the programme the analytical attention of a lawyer to the meaning of a document, an auditor to the interpretation of accounts, *or an academic* to the content of a learned article.

5 In deciding what impression the material complained of would have been likely to have on the hypothetical reasonable viewer the court were entitled, if not bound, to have regard to the impression made.

6 The court should not be too literal in its approach.

7 A statement should be taken to be *defamatory if it would tend to* lower the plaintiff in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally, or be likely to affect a person adversely in the estimation of reasonable people generally.

In the context of the present case it was not necessary to refer in more detail to the judgment of the *Master of the Rolls in Skuse*, save to say that he cited a passage from *Lewis v Daily Telegraph Ltd* ([1964] AC 234, 277 where Lord Devlin had pointed out that a layman read *in an implication much more* freely than a lawyer and added "unfortunately, as the law of defamation has to take into account, is especially prone to do so *when it is derogatory*".

Mr Caldecott did not suggest that the words "at least two reported cases of suicide" would have been understood as being merely coincidental. He accepted that the reasonable viewer could *infer that there was a clear link* between Mrs Gillick's success in the Court of Appeal and the suicides. His argument was that the programme did not suggest that Mrs Gillick was culpable.

His Lordship was unable to accept that argument. It would be for the jury to decide what the words complained of actually meant in their context.

At the present stage, his Lord*ship was satisfied that within the* reasonable spectrum of meanings of which the words were reasonably capable was the meaning that Mrs Gillick was in some sense to blame for the girls' deaths and therefore morally responsible to a culpable degree.

The fact that the programme included a serious discussion on a serious subject did not, in his Lordship's view, assist the defen*dants. The fact that the discussion* was serious lessened the possibility that any remark was merely flippant or ill-considered.

The suicide or two or more *young girls would have been* a most distressing event and reasonable viewers might well have taken a most unfavourable view of anyone who was even remotely responsible for the girls' actions.

His Lordship was satisfied that a jury *might* properly come to the conclusion that Mrs Pearce's words would have been likely to affect Mrs Gillick "adversely in the estimation of reasonable persons *generally*".

Lord Justice Evans agreed with Lord Justice Neill; Lord Justice Millett delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Ms Judith Long, Shepherd's Bush.

Migration status relevant in housing refusal

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Castelli
Regina v Same, Ex parte Tristán-Garcia

Before Mr Roger Henderson, QC

[Judgment October 5]

A local housing authority could determine that a person was in the UK unlawfully, even where he had not entered illegally, and therefore refuse to house him under Part III of the Housing Act 1985.

A housing authority owed no duty to offer priority housing under section 65 of the 1985 Act to a person who was no longer lawfully present in Britain even though he *had entered lawfully and* the authorities did not intend to remove him.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in dismissing the applications of Gaudenzio Castelli and José Tristán-García for, inter alia, certiorari to quash the decisions of Westminster City Council of April 10 and 24, 1995 respectively that they should be refused priority housing under section 65.

The applicants were European Union citizens who had entered the UK lawfully. Gaudenzio Castelli was an Italian who came to Britain in March 1994 to exercise his right under community law to work as a businessman. By February 1995 his attempts to create a business in the UK or find work had foundered, he was suffering from the HIV virus and he became unable to support himself.

José Tristán-García was a Spaniard who first came to Britain in February 1993 to exercise his right under *community law to obtain* work here. He worked and studied in Britain for a time but became reliant on income support and housing benefit. He also suffered *from the HIV virus*.

Each applicant was informed by the immigration and nationality department that, as they were no longer in business or employed they were not lawfully resident in Britain.

Castelli was not asked to leave the UK. Tristán-García was asked to leave but he was told that no steps would be taken to enforce his departure. Castelli was housed by the council in fulfilment of its obligation to provide interim housing under section 63 of the 1985 Act pending a decision as to whether he was eligible for priority housing in the longer term. On April 10, 1995 he was refused such longer-term priority need housing under section 65 of the Act. The council eventually stated its grounds for that decision to be that, at the material time, he had not been *resident in Britain* in reliance on his EU rights.

On April 24, 1995 the council refused priority housing to Tristán-García on the basis that he had *no longer had a right* of residence in the UK and remained in the UK unlawfully.

Mr Jan Lubi for the applicants; Mr Clive Jones for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Tower Hamlets LBC* ([1993] QB 632) the Home Secretary accepted that local housing authorities were entitled to inquire into the immigration status of an applicant or his dependants and that they had no duty under Part III of the 1985 Act to house an illegal entrant but he maintained that the question of whether a person was an illegal *entrant by virtue of having* obtained leave to enter by deception was a matter for the exclusive determination of the Home Secretary and the immigration *authorities*.

The Court of Appeal held that it was appropriate for housing authorities to determine whether an applicant for housing was an illegal entrant because he had obtained leave to enter on the basis of false representations as to the adequacy of his accommodation.

It was said for the applicants that the present cases were distinguishable because that case was concerned *with entry status* and the present cases were concerned with residential status. His Lordship rejected that submission.

The applicants sought to rely on *Ex parte Tower Hamlets* in a further way. It was said the case decided that the *duties* under the 1985 Act were not owed to a person who entered the country unlawfully or to a person who entered by deception or to a person who remained illegally and that, conversely, if a person had entered lawfully and was not here illegally he was accordingly within the class of persons to whom Part III of the Act applied.

In *R v Hillingdon LBC, Ex parte Streeting* ([1980] 1 WLR 1425) the *duties imposed on* a housing authority in respect of homelessness were owed to them if they were lawfully here. His Lordship could not accept that because a person had made a lawful entry to the UK it followed *that thereafter such persons were* here lawfully.

According to *Ex parte Tower Hamlets* a person who had entered the country illegally and who had *subsequently no right to be here was* owed no duty whatsoever by a local housing authority under Part III of the 1985 Act.

What then of an immigrant who had no right to reside in this country at the time that the local housing authority had to consider his position but whom the immigration authorities would not forcibly deport?

Mr Castelli and Mr Tristán-García shared those characteristics but the former had not been asked to leave while the latter had. *There was certainly not an indefi*nite leave to remain here.

Local housing authorities could not as a matter of common sense be expected to house those whom *the immigration authorities* regarded as unlawfully present and required to leave. Parliament did not so intend.

If the consequence of a person *having no right of residence* was that the local housing authority owed no duty to him, his reasonable course was to turn to the country where he had such right.

If his residence was in pursuit of or in reliance on no right, it was *both reasonable and lawful that no* Part III duty was owed to house him once that decision had been lawfully reached.

Solicitors: Miss Alice Holt, Holborn; *Mr Colin Wilson*, Westminster.

Global assessment of VAT valid

House v Customs and Excise Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Pill and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment October 17]

A global assessment of value-added tax made by the Customs and Excise Commissioners in respect of separate prescribed accounting periods in circumstances where it was possible to *calculate the tax for each of the* periods was not invalid.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr P. J. House, trading as P & J Autos, from a decision of Mr Justice May.

Mr Roderick Cordara, QC, for the taxpayer; Mr Guy Sankey, QC, for the commissioners.

SIR JOHN BALCOMBE said that the commissioners gave a formal notice, dated June 4, 1990, to the taxpayer, who dealt in motor cars, of an assessment of his underdeclared VAT for the period from November 1, 1984 to January 31, 1990. There was no suggestion of *any impropriety* by the taxpayer.

The notice gave the total of the assessment but did not indicate the amount due for each prescribed accounting period. *Accompanying* the notice, however, was a letter with three schedules containing details of the assessment from which it would have been possible *by arithmetical calculation to ar*rive at the sum of the assessment for each period.

The questions which arose were: 1 Whether a global assessment of VAT was permissible in circumstances where it was possible to *make separate assessments for the* relevant prescribed accounting periods; and if so

2 Whether there had been a sufficient notification of the *assessment*.

The judge had answered both questions in the affirmative. His Lordship agreed with him.

The assessment had been made under paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983, which provided: "(1) . . . where it appears to the commissioners that [any returns required under this Act] are incomplete or incorrect they may assess the amount of tax due from [the taxpayer] to the best of their judgment and notify it to him."

In *International Language Centres Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1983] STC 394, 396) Mr Justice Woolf had said that it was apparent from *S. J. Grange Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1979] 1 WLR 239) *that the use of global assessments* was to be confined to those cases where it was not possible to identify a specific period for which the tax claimed was due.

In his Lordship's view, however, the decision in that case was to the opposite effect, despite what Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had said at p242.

That was confirmed by the Court of Appeal in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Le Rififi Ltd* ([1995] STC 103, 107). Accordingly, the appeal on the first issue failed.

On the issue of sufficient notification, the question was whether the schedules to the letter could be treated as part of the notice of assessment. There was no statutory provision dealing with the form of the notice, but as Mr Justice Woolf had made clear in *the International Language Centres* case, the taxpayer had to be informed of the effect of the assessment.

He was in the present case. He got notice of the assessment and the schedules to the accompanying letter showed with complete clarity how the sums were made up.

In those circumstances, common sense should prevail and the conclusion had to be that the *taxpayer received proper notifica*tion of the assessment.

The appeal on the second issue also failed.

Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice *Stuart-Smith* agreed.

Solicitors: Mr H. H. Mainprice: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Election court should give reasons

Regina v Corporation of the City of London and Another, Ex parte Matson

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice *Swinton-Thomas*

[Judgment August 18]

Although the law did not recognise a general duty to give reasons for administrative decisions, fairness and natural justice required that the Court of Aldermen of the City of London should give reasons *when deciding whether or not to* ratify the election of an alderman.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Mr Malcolm Matson against the refusal by Mr Justice Latham on March 16, 1995 to grant his application for judicial review of the decision of the Court of Aldermen on December 6, 1994 that he was not a fit and proper person to hold the office of alderman.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC and Mr Antony White for Mr Matson; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC, Mr Richard Price and Mr Murray Hunt for London.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the election of an alderman took place in two stages: first, by the election of the voters at the wardmote, and second, by the *confirmation by the Court of* Aldermen. On the first stage Mr Matson had been elected, as one of two candidates, by 54 votes to 13 on a turnout of 57 per cent of the *electorate*.

He was summoned to appear *before the aldermanic court on* December 6, 1994. No petition or motion to reject had been made to the court and he had been given no notice of any matter upon which he *might be asked questions*. After being interviewed he was rejected by 17 votes to one, with one abstention, without reasons being stated.

His Lordship was persuaded, on careful reflection, that fairness and *natural justice required that that* decision should not be allowed to go unexplained. Mr Matson was standing for public office. The Court of Aldermen was a court of record and its decision was a matter of public record.

During the interview questions were put to Mr Matson which suggested that he had acted in an inappropriate manner. He had no means of knowing whether the *court accepted his explanation*.

In the absence of reasons neither he nor the electors could know whether he should stand again, or whether if re-elected he should supply additional information to the court.

The giving of short reasons would not frustrate or impede the exercise by the court of its customary powers. On the contrary, it would enable the court to ensure *that its decisions in every case were* sound and manifestly just and in the interests of the City.

Lord Justice Swinton-Thomas delivered a concurring judgment *and Lord Justice Waite agreed*.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance: Mr A. J. Colvin.

European Law Report Luxembourg

No transfer of undertaking

Ledernes Hovedorganisation, acting on behalf of Ole Rygaard v Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, acting on behalf of Stro Molle Akustik A/S

Case C-48/94

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges P. A. Schockweiler, P. J. G. Kapteyn, P. Jann, G. F. Mancini, C. N. *Kakouris*, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, G. Hirsch, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sévon

Advocate General G. Cosmas

(Opinion May 10)

[Judgment September 19]

For the purposes of the Com*munity* directive relating to the safeguarding of employee's rights in the event of transfers of *undertakings*, there was no "transfer" where one undertaking merely made *available to another* certain workers and materials for carrying out particular works, as in such a *case the transfer* did not relate to the carrying on of a stable economic activity.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary *ruling*, on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Sø- og Handelsretten (*Maritime* and Commercial Court), Copenhagen, on a question concerning Council *Directive* 77/187/EEC of February 14, 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the *member states* relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of *transfers of undertakings*, businesses or parts of businesses (OJ 1977 L61 p26).

A contract dated January 30, 1992 between the main contractor in building works and a firm of carpenters, Svend Pedersen A/S, provided for part of certain *construction works which had* been started by Svend Pedersen to be continued by another firm, Stro Molle.

It was provided, inter alia, that the cost of materials for the work already provided and paid for by Svend Pedersen would be re*funded by Stro Molle* and that Stro Molle would take on two apprentices for the period from February 1 to about May 1.

By a letter of January 31 Svend Pedersen informed Ole Rygaard, one of its employees, that it was intended to wind up the firm, that the works referred to above were to be taken over by Stro Molle, and that Mr Rygaard would be dismissed on April 30.

The letter stated that with effect from February 1 Mr Rygaard would be transferred to Stro Molle who would continue to pay him until the end of the employment relationship.

Svend Pedersen was declared bankrupt in March. Mr Rygaard continued working for Stro Molle until May 26 when he was given notice of dismissal taking effect on June 30.

On Mr Rygaard's claim for damages for wrongful dismissal, the court referred the question whether *Directive 77/187* was applicable in circumstances such as those of the case.

In its judgment the Court of Justice held:

The directive, by article 1(1), applied to "the transfer of an undertaking, business or part of a business to another employer as a result of a legal transfer or merger".

Article 3(1) provided for the transferor's rights and obligations arising from a contract of employment, or from an employment relationship existing on the date of a transfer, to be transferred to the transferee.

Article 4(1) prohibited the transferor and transferee from dismissing the employees concerned on the ground of the transfer.

It was clear from the scheme of the directive and from the terms of article 1(1) that the directive was intended to ensure continuity of employment relationships existing within a business, irrespective of any change of ownership.

The decisive criterion for establishing whether there was a transfer for the purposes of the directive was whether the business retained its identity, and in order to ascertain whether that criterion was satisfied, it was necessary to consider whether the operation of the entity was actually continued or resumed by the new employer, with the same or similar economic activities: see Case 24/85 *Spijkers v Bendiik* ([1986] ECR 1119, paragraphs 11 and 12).

It was then necessary to consider all the facts, including the type of undertaking or business concerned, whether tangible assets such as buildings and moveable property were transferred, the value of intangible assets at the time of the transfer, whether or not most of the personnel were taken over by the new employer, whether customers were transferred, the degree of similarity between the activities carried on before and after the transfer, and the period of any suspension of those activities.

However, all those circumstances were only individual factors in the overall assessment to be made, and could not be considered in isolation: *Spijkers* paragraph 13.

Mr Rygaard considered that those conditions were satisfied.

He observed that the works taken over by Stro Molle were the same as those which had been entrusted to Svend Pedersen, and submitted that the duration of the works could not be decisive in *determining whether a "transfer"* within the directive had taken place, just as the scale of the activity transferred was held not to be decisive in Case C-392/92 *Schmidt v Spar- und Leihkasse Bordesholm* ([1995] ICR 237; [1994] ECR I-1311).

His argument could not be accepted.

The authorities cited above pre*supposed that the transfer related* to a stable economic entity whose activity was not limited to performing one specific works contract.

Where one undertaking transferred to another one of its building works with a view to the completion of that work, the trans*fer could only come* within the directive if it included the transfer of a body of assets enabling the activities or certain activities of the transferor undertaking to be carried on in a stable way.

That was not so where, as in the present case, the transferor undertaking merely made available to the new contractor certain workers and material for carrying out the works in question.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

The taking over, with a view to completing, with the consent of the awarder of the main building contract, works started by another undertaking, of two apprentices and an employee, together with the materials assigned to those works, did not constitute a transfer of an undertaking, business or part of a business within the meaning of article 1(1) of Directive 77/187.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

REVERTER OF SITES ACT 1987
NORWOOD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. Norwood County Primary School ("the Property") closed in 1991 and was the subject of the Reverter Provisions of the School Sites Act 1841.
2. The Property was originally conveyed by JOHN MOORHOUSE to the Clifton with Norwood School Board.
3. North Yorkshire County Council ("the Council") is the successor in title to the Clifton with Norwood School Board.
4. The Property has been sold by the Council and the Council now holds the proceeds of sale upon trust for the heirs of John Moorhouse.
5. The Council proposes to apply to the Charity Commission for an Order to establish a scheme which:
 (a) will extinguish the rights of beneficiaries under the trust, and
 (b) requires the Council as trustee to hold the proceeds of sale for such charitable purposes as may be specified in the Order.
6. ANY BENEFICIARY BEING AN HEIR OF JOHN MOORHOUSE WHO WISHES TO OPPOSE THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF HIS RIGHTS SHOULD, WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE, WRITE TO OR TELEPHONE THE COUNTY SECRETARY, NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AT THE ADDRESS OR ON THE TELEPHONE NUMBER BELOW QUOTING REFERENCE LE.1901/GGN.

The County Secretary
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD. Telephone: (01609) 780780 ext 2279

LEGAL NOTICES

DEANGRATE LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K P Barry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 853, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 11th October 1995. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated this 11th October 1995
K P BARRY, FCA, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
BUSHVALE SERVICES LIMITED
IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Frames, Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Frames Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 17th October 1995.
All creditors are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Frames at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP, I Frames, Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

THE TOPLIS AND HARDING GROUP LTD (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of The Toplis and Harding Group Ltd is to be held at Room G18, No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 3 November 1995 at 10.30am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0171-939-4622) and ask for Ryan Shaw.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
AV LOMAS, Joint Administrative Receiver
18 October 1995.

Edmonds & Co. (Printing) Limited
t/a Print Express
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 27th November 1995, to send their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debt or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Mark Robert Fry of Messrs. Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2ED, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 17th October 1995
Mark Robert Fry, Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
DORMANS PHOTOGRAPHIC LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN and Malcolm Cork of 1 Snow Hill, London, EC1A 2EN were appointed Joint Liquidators of the said Company by the Creditors of the 22nd September 1995.
M.R. DORRINGTON & M. CORK, Joint Liquidators.

LEGAL NOTICES

GLENSHERNE NURSING SERVICES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
TRADING AS:
GREYFRIARS NURSING HOME
HERONSWOOD RESIDENTIAL HOME
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Glenserne Nursing Services Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, Bridge Gate, 56/57 High Street, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1RX on 3 November 1995 at 10.30am under the provisions of section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0171-939-4622) and ask for Ryan Shaw.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to me at the above address.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
M D Dircks, Joint Administrative Receiver
18 October 1995

DEANGRATE LIMITED
t/a STAR CIRCLE
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 22nd November 1995 to send in their full forenames and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, K P Barry, FCA, at Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 853, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 11th day of October 1995
K P BARRY, Liquidator

WES (1993) (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of WES (1993) is to be held at Room G13, No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 3 November 1995 at 10.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0171-939-4622) and ask for Ryan Shaw.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
AV LOMAS, Joint Administrative Receiver
18 October 1995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925, that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE or any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice

WHITE, ALFRED Also known as ALFRED AUGUSTUS WHITE of ST PAULS NURSING HOME, 24 WICKHAM ROAD, LONDON SE4 (formerly 140 LYNDHURST WAY, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15) died on 3RD JUNE 1993 particulars to HEPBURNS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15 4QX before 22ND DECEMBER 1995.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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UK Income Inc	477.70	504.30†	+ 0.40	2.65
Managed Inc Acc	755.30	800.50†	+ 0.60	4.06
Managed Inc Pref Acc	437.50	447.40†	+ 0.30	4.06
Managed Inc Pref Inc	196.10	208.30†	- 0.30	9.76
Pref & Fixed Int Inc	91.07	96.18†	- 0.08	5.76
UK Pref Inc	327.20	346.80†	- 0.50	
Global Opportunities	339.60	327.70†	+ 0.20	0.95
Gilt Fund	81.86	86.11	+ 0.15	7.89
Gilt Fund Inc Acc	130.20	137.30†		4.71
Gilt Fund Inc	87.70	92.12†	- 0.03	4.71
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		3.91
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ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS

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High Income				
Abbey National Bond	107.70	113.50†	- 0.10	7.21
High Inc Equity	104.10	109.30†	- 0.05	4.16
Jersey Gilt Trust	105.20	110.60	- 0.10	4.63
Capital Growth				
American Growth	330.30	353.30†	+ 2.10	0.52
Asian Equity	317.70	337.40	+ 0.70	
Asian & Emerging	305.50	317.30	- 0.60	0.72
Canada & Energy	101.50	111.80	+ 1.70	0.12
Euro Opportunities	135.90	135.90	- 0.20	0.62
Japan Growth	126.40	132.70	- 0.20	0.62
Managed Trusts				
Abbey Managed	257.70	270.90	+ 1.00	2.89
Balanced	179.40	188.70	+ 0.60	
Extra Income	107.70	113.20	+ 0.40	7.74
European Equity	317.70	327.40	+ 0.70	
Income & Growth	206.10	216.70	+ 0.70	3.30
International	134.40	141.60	+ 1.70	0.12
Pacific Basin	135.90	143.00	+ 0.20	0.62
Special Situations	126.40	132.90	+ 0.30	0.62
Sterling Fixed Interest	107.70	113.20	+ 0.40	7.74
Technology	279.90	294.40	+ 1.10	0.89
UK Equity	135.70	142.70	+ 0.30	
UK Gilt	104.60	110.00	+ 0.40	7.89
UK Growth	163.00	171.50	+ 0.40	5.58

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Gilt	50.50	50.20†	+ 0.01	9.01
Managed Inc	68.31	72.05†	+ 0.05	4.81
Special Sit	104.64	104.90	- 0.40	
Sterling Fixed Int	107.70	109.60†	- 0.50	7.51
Sterling Plus	100.00	100.00†		7.51
Technology	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Extra Income	107.70	113.20†	+ 0.40	7.74
Asian Opportunities	48.60	52.00†	- 0.20	0.64
Emerging Markets	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
European Growth	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Japan Growth	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
North American	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Pacific Basin	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Recovery	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Smaller Companies	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Commercial Property	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Currency Fund	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Deposit Fund	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Fixed Interest	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Index Linked	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Managed Fund	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64
Property Fund	58.60	62.70†	- 0.30	0.64

ALLENBRIDGE INV MGMT SVS LTD

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Sterling Income	50.91	55.85†	+ 0.23	7.57
Income Build Inc Inc	74.64	79.15†	+ 0.31	7.57

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Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	241.20	254.80†	+ 0.80	2.87
Growth	350.30	372.10†	+ 1.50	1.74
Managed	252.30	266.50†	+ 1.00	2.29
Pan European	1411.00	1496.00†	+ 3.00	2.69
Specialist Trusts				
American Growth	94.11	97.51	- 0.23	0.08
Asian Equity	479.00	504.80†	+ 1.60	0.42
Asian Income	206.10	217.30†	+ 0.70	4.30
Extra Income	134.40	141.60†	+ 0.40	7.20
Far East Growth	33.10	34.85†	+ 0.05	6.95
Fixed Interest Trusts				
Corporate Bond	177.80	183.60†	- 0.27	8.27
Fixed Interest	44.25	44.91	- 0.04	0.01
High Income	173.30	182.50†	- 0.10	9.18
Index Linked	163.40	172.10†	- 0.20	4.62
Sterling Bond	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Gilt Unit Trusts				
Gilt Fund	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Gilt Income	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Index Linked Gilt	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Short Dated Gilt	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Managed Trusts				
Balanced Managed	190.30	200.30†	- 0.60	3.91
Managed Fund	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Property Trusts				
Property Fund	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Property Income	107.20	112.90†	- 0.20	7.51
Cash Trusts				
Deposit Fund	91.64	91.64†	- 0.01	6.11
Managed Cash Fund	95.43	96.87†	- 0.15	1.66
Money Fund Inc	102.56	107.61†	+ 0.44	2.01

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS

0645 717 373

High Income				
Abbey National Bond	107.70	113.50†	- 0.10	7.21
High Inc Equity	104.10	109.30†	- 0.05	4.16
Jersey Gilt Trust	105.20	110.60	- 0.10	4.63
Capital Growth				
American Growth	330.30	353.30†	+ 2.10	0.52
Asian Equity	317.70	337.40	+ 0.70	
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UK Gilt	104.60	110.00	+ 0.40	7.89
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Sterling Fixed Interest	107.70	113.20	+ 0.40	7.74
Technology	279.90	294.40	+ 1.10	0.89
UK Equity	135.70	142.70	+ 0.30	
UK Gilt	104.60	110.00	+ 0.40	7.89
UK Growth	163.00	171.50	+ 0.40	5.58

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Balanced Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
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European Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
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Fixed Interest Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
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Japanese Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Japanese Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
North American Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
North American Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Pacific Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Pacific Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Preference & Bond Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Preference & Bond Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Special Situations Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Special Situations Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
UK Growth Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
UK Growth Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		

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Managed Pref Inc Acc	196.10	208.30†	- 0.30	9.76
Managed Pref Inc Inc	91.07	96.18†	- 0.08	5.76
UK Pref Inc	327.20	346.80†	- 0.50	
North America	339.60	327.70†	+ 0.20	0.95
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Gilt Fund Inc Acc	130.20	137.30†		4.71
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European Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Fixed Interest Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Fixed Interest Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Income Inc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
Income Acc	1.1.96	1.1.96		
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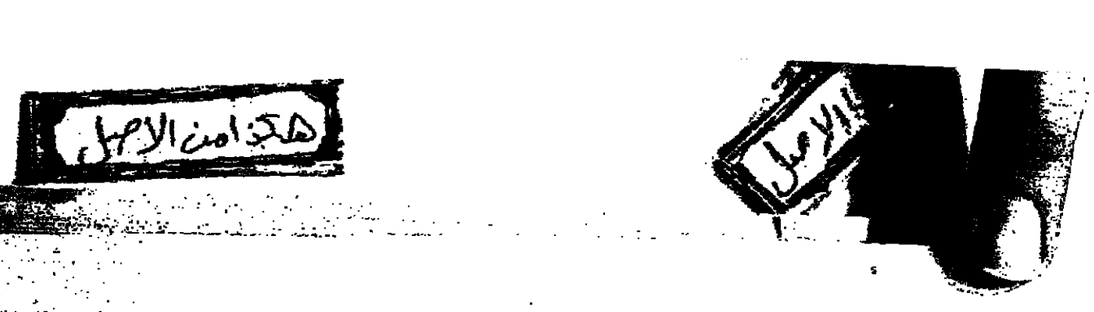
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ARBUTHNOT UNIT TST MGRS





■ THEATRE 1

Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* gets an overlong but sympathetic new staging from the RSC



■ THEATRE 2

The plight of Europe's refugees is dramatised for young people in *Making the Future* at the Young Vic

THE TIMES ARTS



■ OPERA

A spirited if patchily sung new production of Massenet's *Werther* goes on the road



■ TOMORROW

Rodney Milnes on an intriguing staging of Purcell's *Fairy Queen* at the Coliseum

THEATRE: Osborne's study of homosexuality, treachery and decadence; Europe's shameful past and ugly present

My closet right or wrong?

If John Osborne really had a homosexual past — and I have no firm opinion on this claim — you can see from *A Patriot for Me* why he hid and, presumably, tried to forget it. The Austro-Hungarian Empire as he portrayed it shared many things with late-late-imperial Britain as he experienced it, among them hypocritical and punitive attitudes towards love in its Attic varieties. A man who tried to live a double life in either place, whether he was the play's protagonist or John Osborne himself, could end up emotionally and even literally destroyed.

A Patriot for Me
Barbican

Peter Gill's production, with James Wilby as the doomed Alfred Redl, makes that point almost too clearly. It does not pontificate and, once it gets going, does not drag. But is it necessary for a play so lacking in Osborne's trademark rhetoric to last a full four hours? If the RSC will kindly send me its copy of the text, I will undertake to scissor out 30 minutes, starting with the prolix opening scene. This may be the first major revival of an Osborne play since his death last year; but I do not think the great castigator of mindless reverence would have objected to a deft cut or two.

A vast black door and a huge ornate pediment, flanked by grim black columns, combine with uniforms galore to evoke the Habsburg Empire in ponderous decay. Clubby racism is everywhere. A colonel claims that privilege counts for nothing in a modern army and then, without any sense of inconsistency, concedes that only the privileged can rely on rapid promotion. Out of such contradictions and stupidities come Burgesses, Macleans and Redls: men with different reasons for treachery but all with skin-thin loyalties and bitterness in their hearts.

Actually, Osborne's Redl, who rises from humble origins to become a senior spycatcher and is turned by the Russians into a double-agent, is harder to read than the Cambridge conmen. He seems simply to be an ambitious soldier who needs money and fears exposure as a homosexual in a society where the great sin is being found out. Yet you never know what he is feeling when he endorses a patriotic sentiment or spouts the anti-Semitic rubbish conventional in the officers' mess. Of all Osborne's protagonists, he is the quietest and, in many ways, the most inscrutable.

Some may therefore find Wilby's performance tentative and indecisive, especially at first. I felt he could smoulder more darkly at times. But the point about Redl is that he has learnt to give nothing away. Only occasionally does his impressively cool façade crack, and then not a lot. He loses his temper with a café-rat who senses the sexual secret he himself has not yet acknowledged; he winces away from a demanding mistress and rails at a male lover thinking of getting married; he momentarily sags when blackmail begins.

He emerges warily from the closet and, once out, visibly toughens and hardens. The impression Wilby leaves is of a man who commits suicide on one level in order to survive on another; but you cannot be sure even of that.

That seems to me justified under the circumstances and suggests a sensitivity seldom associated with Osborne. He may have ended his life sneering at "poofs" and writing provocatively filthy limericks about them. But *Patriot* comes across as a surprisingly sympathetic portrait of the sexual outsider. That is so not only in its careful account of Redl's emotional journey, but in Gill's staging of the famous drag ball that led to the play's banning 30 years ago.

Could the prancing Antoinettes, Queen Elizabeths, milkmaids and tarts make a more exotic impression? Yes, and a more sinister one too. But with Denis Quilley in full sail as a massively gowned and feathered host, they take on dignity and even pathos. At one point they simply sit in a row and talk, more self-mockingly than sadly, of the efforts they once made to alter their instincts, and the effect, so far from being sensational, is oddly moving. Whatever Osborne's own traits, he understood what it meant to be rejected and defiant.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Officer in a mess: Reginald Marsh as Ludwig von Mohl and James Wilby as the tortured homosexual, Alfred Redl, in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*. Drawing by Bill Hewison

From Hitler to Herzegovina

TO STAGE a trilogy of contemporary European plays for young people is a grand scheme, one realised by the Oxford Stage Company with its bold project **Making The Future** at the Old Vic. But the event gets off to a wobbly start with **Mirad, A Boy From Bosnia**, Dutch dramatist Ad de Bont's simply-told story of the atrocities and sorrows suffered by Djuka and Fazila. This Muslim refugee couple, Croat and Serb, arriving with only two suitcases, face us on a bare stage to report their painful experiences and those of Mirad, the 13-year-old nephew, whose letters and diary they read out.

In May this year, when *Making The Future* was budding, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack gave a one-off, magnetic, poignant workshop performance of the script. Unfortuantely, the final production proves far less sensitive. Malcolm Scates's Djuka is sturdily urgent but without Irons's frailty and dry bitterness. Rachel Fielding's blank, at best sarcastic, Fazila lacks Cusack's softness and strength. Neither explores the supressed grief that lurks between the often sentimentally clichéd lines.

Rosa Maggiora's dark-planked floor, fast-receding to rusting wire mesh, is forcefully stark, though one wonders why the war-torn refugees sport such smart togs. Part II, reuniting Mirad (fierce-faced Gareth Corke) and his mother (Meriel Schofield) brings worse writing but better acting.

Hitler's Childhood, by Niklas Radstrom, a Swede, and inspired by Alice Miller's study of the Führer's formative years, is a further improvement and continues the themes of violently disturbed childhood and ethnic cleansing. The portrayal of Hitler's brutal, mocking, fantasy-forbidding father and his mad aunt (uncampy Gareth Corke with ginger plait) certainly explains a lot. The psychoanalytic picture is not subtle but Michael Matus as little Adolf is potently shaky. The piece has some expressionistic style. Adolf, lashed by his father, silently crushes down his alter ego (Tassia Messimeris embodying his feminine, feeling, nonconformist side), who wails like a siren.

On the subject of fascism, **Summit Conference**, running at the Man In The Moon Theatre in a sure-footed fringe production, approaches the Führer from another unexpected angle. Robert David MacDonald's fitfully interesting play imagines the meeting between Hitler's and Mussolini's mistresses, Eva Braun and Clara Petacci, at which they turn into cross-dressing dominatrices bullying a young Nazi who proves a closet Jew (promising Callum Coates). The ladies blur into an expressionist cabaret satire of the Führer and *il Duce* themselves.



Matus and Messimeris in *Hitler's Childhood*

Back at the Young Vic, the third play, **Grace** by Ignace Cornelissen, a Belgian, comes as light relief. This comic modern *Cinderella* has Matus in charmingly silly mode as the uncool Prince. Vicky Licorish is common as muck and cute, arriving at the ball like a dwarf in a cycling mac, winning our hero's heart in spite of the wicked wiles of the glitzy bossy-boots, Tiffany. The trashing of the ballroom is messily choreographed but Matus's and Licorish's nerdy disco dancing is a delight. We have moved from schismatic hatred to a happy class-and-race-bridging romance.

KATE BASSETT

VISIONS OF AFRICA

Last in a series of highlights of the Royal Academy's show



Carved figure, Urhobo, Nigeria, 19th century, wood, h. 142 cm

Figures of this kind are usually associated with water-spirits or settlement founders, and they would have been kept on the fringes of the village. The suckling pose does not necessarily imply a spirit exclusive to child-rearing, because in African sculpture maternity is often seen as completing female identity. This figure would have been covered with white chalk as a mark of spiritual purity and power, and the lower limbs would have been wrapped in a white cloth to prevent erosion. The head bears the remains of raised facial scars and a complex coiffure, *igbeton*, worn by women of high rank.

Change in the Werther

GOETHE'S *Werther* and Beaumarchais' *Barber* were conceived within half a dozen years of each other. Yet they could hardly embody more contrasting sensibilities: irredeemable Romantic melancholy on the one hand, irrepressible *buffo* wit on the other.

For its autumn season, which will take it nationwide, English Touring Opera has imaginatively brought the two together by coupling Masse-

Werther
Richmond

net's *Werther* with Rossini's *Barber of Seville*.

Werther comes in a new production by Robert Chevara, designed by Lucy Hall. Paring props and stage business to the essentials has resulted in a direct, unfussy production that serves the opera well. Washing on a line sets the domestic tone of the first act in the mayor's garden, while the drawing room for the claustrophobic third act (Werther's intimate scene with Charlotte) is transformed with a few strokes into a convincing Biedermeier interior. Paule Constable's heavily shadowed lighting is superb here, as indeed it is throughout the show. Costumes of the period are well designed by Fiona Atherton.

The intermezzo that joins the third and fourth acts is staged by Chevara. Black figures loom ominously in a snowscape. Werther, standing upright, is covered by a white sheet. With his black hat perched on top, he briefly resembles a snowman, but as the music reaches its lowering climax, blood streaks the sheet. All the more powerful in that we hear no pistol shots, the moment tellingly superimposes music and action.

Sarah Connolly's Charlotte dominates the stage. Composed and self-assured to begin with, she also contrives a nicely distracted air in the crucial third act. Vocally, too, she gives a commanding performance, with plenty of light and shade. Gail Pearson, light and smiling of tone, provides a neat foil as her younger, gayer sister Sophie. Ricardo Simonetti, with his stylish baritone, cuts a sophisticated, almost sympathetic figure as Charlotte's husband, Albert. Amanda Holden's singable translation is projected well by most of the cast.

Sadly the *Werther* originally billed, Geraint Dodd, had to withdraw from the production. Timothy Evans-Jones has a brave stab at the role but he is a barely adequate replacement. His thin, peaky tone and poorly sustained line do scant justice to the score's lyricism, though in terms simply of stage presence his Werther is a very passable melancholic.

Once one has adjusted to the less refulgent, chamber-like sonorities produced by the 27-piece orchestra, it is possible to appreciate the clarity it brings to Massenet's often contrapuntal textures. Martin André conducts a spirited performance that will no doubt get even more polished as the tour progresses.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Sisters in sorrow: Sarah Connolly and Gail Pearson are perfectly matched as Charlotte and Sophie in *Werther*

Sensation seeker

CONCERT

Camerata
RNCM, Manchester

SACHIO FUJIOKA, the new principal conductor of the Manchester Camerata, was so thrilled by Ingrid Haebler's performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto in B flat, K595, that when an attendant came on with the obligatory bouquet he snatched it from him and made the presentation himself. Dangerous precedent though it was in the opening concert of his first season with the orchestra — what will he do when he is not so thrilled? — it was an obviously spontaneous gesture of the kind that will surely endear this pleasingly extrovert young musician to the public.

It was an encouraging gesture, too, in that it clearly indicated how much he appreciated those qualities in her playing which he himself lacks in Mozart. Her rhythmic precision allied to her awareness of the significance of every modulation is a much more direct way of getting in touch with the Mozart personality than his approach to the same thing by way of dramatic dynamic contrast.

The expansion of the sound he so resourcefully achieved towards the end of the *Linz Symphony* was sensational and unmistakably conclusive but, in the absence of little more than superficial characterisation, it was conclusive to not very much. Haebler's interpretation, on the other hand, was a source of illumination. Her understatements are more eloquent in Mozart than any amount of rhetoric.

Fujioka sprang to prominence in Manchester when, as Sir Charles Groves Conducting Fellow at the Royal Northern College of Music, he deputised for Sir Edward Downes in a Tchaikovsky concert with the BBC Philharmonic. Appointed assistant conductor of the BBC PO a couple of months later, he has had the opportunity to develop in various directions, but he is still most effective in the romantic repertoire.

His conducting of Strauss's *Metamorphosen* with the strings of the Camerata was ample demonstration of that. If Strauss's inspired but searching scoring applied technical pressure in one or two vulnerable areas, the elegiac expression and sombre colouring remained unquestionably authentic.

GERALD LARNER

RADIO: Gambaccini wins the day

After the storm

Paul Gambaccini is one of the best broadcasters around. And the Radio 4 late-night shipping forecast does not become a hazard to sailors just because it moves by a few minutes every few years. These seemingly obvious facts appear to have escaped sections of the Radio 3 and Radio 4 audiences.

When Radio 3 announced that Gambaccini was to introduce **Morning Collection**, a gale swept out of the shires and battered the great ship Broadcasting House. At the time Gambaccini had not started broadcasting, but who cares about that?

Gambaccini had committed at least three offences: he was American, he had a background in pop-music radio and he had come from Classic FM. Therefore *Morning Collection* would consist of 16 bars of *Bolero* and 50 minutes of inane cackle.

The reality disappoints blind prejudice. *Morning Collection* consists of the sort of music Radio 3 has always played, interspersed with brief and informative anecdotal introductions by Gambaccini, who happens to be classically trained and who has always been one of the calmer and more thoughtful voices in music broadcasting.

The truth of the matter is that the sufferings of the shipping forecast and Gambaccini are a product of the audience, not of the BBC. Radios 3 and 4 are immensely important to anyone who cares about civilised broadcasting and any sign of slipping standards entitles the audience to rear up.

But this is not that. This is a small section of a small audience advancing the dangerous and arrogant belief that it has the network by the throat. It is part of a trend that phone-in programmes have done much to promote: we are all broadcasters now.

We are not. Broadcasting is a craft best left to broadcasters, who — like journalists — are open to criticism but not to intimidation. The BBC has not always helped its cause by appearing to be arrogant on the inside and overly defensive on the outside.

Listeners ought to judge the BBC's output by switching on or off. Anyone who switched off *Morning Collection* on Tuesday, for example, missed David Oistrakh's wonderful rendition of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D, played in full. I understand Gambaccini stayed awake throughout.

PETER BARNARD





CHOICE 1

Stephen Daldry's acclaimed staging of *An Inspector Calls* returns

VENUE: In preview at the Garrick Theatre



CHOICE 2

Jazz guitarist Bill Frisell plays new music in Birmingham

VENUE: Tomorrow at Adrian Boult Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

Last chance in Nottingham for *The Cabinet of Doktor Caligari*

VENUE: Playhouse Fri, Sat; London from Oct 31



JAZZ

The extrovert Ruth Brown ... eclectic Azure ... and Eric Dolphy recalled by the Vienna Art Orchestra

LONDON

DAGMAR PECKOVA: The striking Czech mezzo-soprano, who has taken leading operatic roles in Paris, Milan and Salzburg, gets a whole recital to herself tonight as part of the Wigmore's New Europe series. Meanwhile, Jean-Yves Thibaudet returns tomorrow with a programme of Chopin and Schumann as part of the International Piano series. **Wigmore Hall**, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm. (S)

BERLIOZ TREATS Colin Davis conducts his beloved Berlioz's quasi-operatic symphony *Romeo and Juliet* in his first concerts as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. With Luciana D'Intino, Laurence Dale, *Manuel Angel Zapater* and the London Symphony Chorus. Expect a season of serious purpose, and delightful, old-fashioned grandeur. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow and Sun, 7.30pm. (S)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's powerful production returns to the West End, this time with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Previews tonight-Mon, 7.45pm. Opens Oct 24, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.45pm. Sat, 8.15pm. mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM Celebrated jazz guitarist Bill Frisell shows off a new quartet for the opening concert of the **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** season. Tomorrow's programme opens with *Bloods of Dust*, a piece written for Frisell and BCMG by Mike Gibbs, and first performed in 1992. **Adrian Boult Hall**, Birmingham Conservatoire (0121-605 8666). Sat, 7.30pm. (S)

OXFORD *Anastasia Hille takes the title role in Cheek by Jowl's latest production,* **The Duchess of Malfi**. Declan Donnellan directs Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the *borderlands of the mind, designs by* Nick Ormerod. **Playhouse**, Beaumont Street (01865 798600). Tonight, 8pm, Sat, 2.30 and 7.30pm (S)

NOTTINGHAM Final performances here for Matthew Kelly as the sinister showman in **The Cabinet of Doktor Caligari**, inspired by the German silent classic. John Ramm's anguished performance as Cesare is something special, as is the fascinating music. Moves to London Oct 31. **Playhouse**, Wellington Circus (0115-641 9419). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm. (S)

SWANSEA: All the cliché superlatives really do fit the bill for the **Wadaiko Ichiro Drummers**, the Japanese *troupe back on a UK tour after taking* last year's Edinburgh Festival by storm. An explosively choreographed combination of 1,500 years of tradition and contemporary spectacle. **Grand**, Singleton Street (S) (0792 475715). Sun, 7.30pm. **Malvern Festival** (S) (01684 892277). Mon, 8pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Dora Carrington, Art of African Textiles (0171-638 4141). ***British Museum:*** *Passionate Art of Utamaro* (0171-636 1555). **Chelsea Crafts Fair:** Old Town Hall (0171-738 8750). **National Gallery:** Myths and Fables: Three Paintings by Piero di Cosimo (0171-747 2885). ***National Portrait Gallery:*** John Korbal Photographic Portrait Award (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy:** Africa. Art of a Continent (0171-439 7438). **Serpentine:** Big City Artists from Africa (0171-723 9072). **Tate:** Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8000). **V & A:** Design Now; San Lorenzo Silversmiths Studio (0171-938 8500). **Whitechapel:** Seven Stones about *Modern Art in Africa* (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
▣ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **COMMUNICATING DOORS.** Alan Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play. Julia McKenzie flees from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a decade. **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5530). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry *Johnson's sharply funny play about* comics and some of their fans. **Savoy**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm (S)

□ **HOBSON'S CHOICE:** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as *daughter and son-in-law.* **Lyric**, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm (S)

□ **MACBETH** Nicolas Kent directs the first Shakespeare to be seen here, in a multi-racial cast led by Lennie James and Helen McCrory as Thane and Mrs Thane. **Tricycle**, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). *Previews tonight-Tue,* 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Oct 25 (S)

□ **THE MASTER BUILDER:** Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and new young actress-to-watch Victoria Hamilton, in Ibsen's male menopause drama. Peter Hall directs. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. (S)

▣ **THREE TALL WOMEN.** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood. **Wyndhams**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **TROUBLE SLEEPING.** Sexually-charged melodrama from Nick Ward, set *in his favourite location, the Fenland,* where Sandra Voe and Peter-Hugo Daly play an obsessively devoted mother and son. **Warehouse**, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue, 8.30pm. Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun 5pm. Until Nov 12.

□ **VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!** Janet McTeer and Barbara Flynn play the queens in Robert Bolt's drama of the rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. Roy Marsden directs. **Mermaid**, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. (S)

▣ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD.** Roger *Allam and Fiona Shaw play Mirabell and* Millament, with Geraldine McEwan as Lady Wishfort. Phyllida Lloyd directs Congreve's most famous comedy of love frustrated and fulfilled. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm. Sat, 2.15 and 7.30pm (S)

▣ **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.** Adrian Noble's richly beautiful production, the outstanding cast *includes Alex Jennings, Lindsay* Duncan, Desmond Barrit, Barry Lynch. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Mon, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm (S)

▣ **ONE FLEA SPARE.** New play by Naomi Wallace, set in London during the Plague where gaiety and undertones are boiled up in a once great house. Dominic Dromgoole's cast includes Robert Langdon Lloyd and Sheila Reid. ***Bush, Shepherds Bush Green,*** W12 (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm

□ **TAKING SIDES** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of conductor Furtwängler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performances by Daniel Massey and Michael Pennington. **Criterion**, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

CANADIAN BACON (PG) The US strafes Canada with insults. Clumsy, one-joke comedy from documentary maverick Michael Moore, with John Candy and Alan Alda. **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

◆ ***CLUELESS*** (12). Late and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone. **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (S) (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (S) (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***MORTAL KOMBAT*** (15). Cinema version of the video game, all fights and special effects. With Christopher Lambert. Director, Paul Anderson. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (S) (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (S) (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NINE MONTHS** (12). Hugh Grant's Hollywood debut: a messy, crude comedy about parenthood from *Home Alone* director Chris Columbus. With Julianne Moore. **Barbican** (S) (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** (S) (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **Screen/ Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

IL POSTINO (U) Heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performances by the late Massimo Troisi; directed by Michael Radford. **Barbican** (S) (0171-638 8891) **Gate** (S) (0171-727 4043) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (S) (0171-435 3366)

CURRENT

◆ **ASSASSINS** (15). Cat and mouse games between two contract killers. *Reasonable action thriller, with Sylvester* Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julianne Moore. Director, Richard Donner. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (S) (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (S) (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY** (12). Best-selling romantic *tosh given the tod-glove treatment by* director Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) ***Odeon Swiss Cottage*** (01426 914098) **Warner** (S) (0171-437 4343)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15). Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, *with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.* **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

◆ **THE NET** (12): New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (S) (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332)

NIGHTWATCH (18) Morgue nightwatchman gets the jitters. Danish thriller with a few classy trimmings. Director, Ole Bornedal. **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U): Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SPECIES** (18): Mutant heroine causes havoc in LA. Nasty, flat-footed *creature feature.* **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (S) (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (S) (0171-792 3332)

THE WILD BUNCH (18) William Holden's outlaws have one last *bloody* fling. Sam Peckinpah's classic Western *of 1969, released with ten minutes* restored. **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Warner** (S) (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Queen of rhythm, and blue

JAZZ

If only all rock stars showed as much concern for their musical heritage as the admirable Bonnie Raitt. Always eager to do some consciousness-raising among her audiences, the guitarist and singer has been touring America with both Ruth Brown and the sublime R&B pianist Charles Brown (no relation, incidentally) on the same bill.

Nearly half a century ago the Divine Miss Brown, dubbed "Miss Rhythm" by Frankie Laine, was one of the early stars of the Atlantic label. Now close to 70 (or, as she puts it, 125 pounds later) she is no longer, physically at least, the unquench-

Ruth Brown
Ronnie Scott's

able little fireball of old. But that does not prevent her putting on an extrovert show, mixing soulful ballads, bluesy showstoppers and a measure of bawdy vaudeville humour. Her band, an ultra-tight quartet of drums, guitar, sultry tenor saxophone and — most important of all — Bobby Forrester's *rumbling Hammond organ*, keeps pace every step of the way.

Brown has suffered her share of illness and misfortune in recent years. But even losing her possessions in the Los Angeles earthquake did not keep her away from the concert stage for long, so it was *somehow appropriate that she opened her* set with the defiantly cheerful sentiments of the evergreen *I've got the World on a String*.

Songs associated with Billie Holiday usually find a way into her shows: on her new album, *Live in London*, an invigorating romp recorded at the club last year, she strings together *Good Morning Heartache, Loverman* and *Fine Mellow*. The last of these provided a grand climax on her opening night, taken at a brisk *tempo with a funky obbligato from* Forrester.

Fine Brown Frame provided another upbeat interlude, and as Forrester moved across to the grand piano Brown unleashed her stock of wry doubles-entendres on a number ostensibly about *an antique sofa — If I Can't Sell it, I'm Gonna Keep Sitting on it.*

No one else delivers a risqué lyric with as much relish as this grand old lady.

CLIVE DAVIS



Ruth Brown, still on the road at nearly 70 with her mixture of soulful ballads, bluesy showstoppers and bawdy vaudeville humour

Eclectic musings

Azure/Zadeh
QEH

TIME was when most jazz concerts dispensed music firmly rooted in America, and the production of the occasional clave or maraca would herald the evening's most adventurous departure from *the tradition; concerts like this* demonstrate just how productive has been the music's recent hospitality to a far wider range of influences.

Opening proceedings was Aziza Mustafa Zadeh, a pianist/singer/composer from Azerbaijan whose music was far more redolent of the Caucasus than of the Mississippi Delta: closing them an *international quartet*, Azure, featuring a Luton-born Scot, a Canadian, a Swede and a Norwegian playing music inspired by a Spanish painter, Joan Miró.

Despite closing her set with *one of jazz's most widely* recognised tunes, Paul Desmond's *Take Five*, and including in it a reverential version of the Billie Holiday classic *Don't Explain*, Zadeh has the touch of a classically trained *pianist and a facility with* indigenous rhythms and cadences more usually associated with folk artists. Even playing selections from her latest album, *Dance of Fire*, on which a certain degree of *homogenisation has resulted* from the participation of the cream of American jazz-fusion players, Zadeh packed her vigorously percussive music *with enough eccentric, dra*matic flourishes to render it *wholly individual.*

Thus, a rumbustious opener, *Passion*, in which passages of startling delicacy were skilfully set off against a rollicking basic rhythm, was followed by a contemplative *through-composed piece dedi*cated to Zadeh's late composer-father, then by *Spanish Picture*, in which her extraordinarily flexible soprano voice joined the piano in a controlled helter-skelter ride, *somehow contriving to incor*porate elements Iberian and Middle Eastern into a convincing jazz-based whole. Zadeh does not so much defy *categorisation as treat it with* magnificent disdain, rendering it totally irrelevant.

Saxophonist Tommy Smith, trumpeter Kenny Wheeler and their Scandinavian rhythm section, bassist Lars Danielsson and drummer Jon Christ*ensen, found Zadeh a tough* act to follow. The music, given its dedicatee, was suitably abstract, propelled in surges and waves more often than by strict tempos, and it contrasted the atmospheric keening of *Smith's tenor with the long*lined lyrical plangency of Wheeler's trumpet and flugelhorn most effectively.

After the flamboyant emotionalism of Zadeh, however, the almost stern solemnity of Smith's compositions and the dark swirl of the overall group sound provided perhaps simply too marked a contrast for the concert as a whole to be *unequivocally successful.*

CHRIS PARKER

At the Dolphy oracle

Vienna Art Orchestra
Purcell Room

DOCUMENTATION and organisation are clearly extremely important to the Vienna Art Orchestra. *Chris Parker writes.* Before this concert of "nine immortal evergreens for Eric Dolphy", a booklet containing details not only about Dolphy's life and work, but of the career and personal tastes of each of the 15 band members was placed on each seat in the Purcell Room. During the concert itself, a slide projected onto a screen behind the band told the audience which particular piece of Dolphyana was being played; the programme ascribed it to a Dolphy album, detailed the original personnel, and explained how and why the piece was being performed.

Such earnestness of intent and care in execution have been hallmarks of the band for 15 years now, as evident in their highly praised 1984 album *The Minimalism of Erik Satie* as in their latest projects, which embrace material by jazz composers Ellington and Mingus, but also pieces in homage to Jean Cocteau and music by Verdi, Wagner and Schubert. Some music — that of Satie and Verdi *in particular* — responds naturally to such treatment; other music, such as that of Mingus and especially that of Dolphy, relies so heavily on personal interpretation that its spirit can easily be stifled by a big-band arrangement.

As a result, the nine evergreens, which ranged from tunes such as *Out There*, which employs Dolphy's trademark hectic, searing cry, to the sonorous lyricism of *Something Sweet, Something Tender*, lent themselves with markedly differing degrees of success to such treatment.

Thus, while the eccentric theme *Hat and Beard* flourished anew in a wonderfully treacly arrangement involving two bass clarinets, and individual players such as reedsman Andy Scherrer, trombonist Christian Muthspiel and trumpeter Matthieu Michel were able to shine in solo spots, some tunes proved fatally recalcitrant. One such was *Gazzelloni*, with its over-fussy arrangement; another was the concert's closer, Fats Waller's *Jitterbug Waltz*, light and joyous in its Dolphy incarnation, but somewhat cumbersome when arranged for 15 instrumentalists and two female vocalists.

ART GALLERIES

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■ POP 1

Human League: still dawdling along in a happy triangle after all these years



■ POP 2

Heavy-metal melodrama served up in double doses by the Smashing Pumpkins

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 3

Chrissie Hynde goes unplugged to rally the old Pretenders hits in *The Isle of View*



■ POP 4

... while *Peel Slowly and See* celebrates the former glories of the Velvet Underground

Three for the show

The notoriously lazy Human League are about to tour *and* record a new album. **Alan Jackson** discovers why



After 15 years together, the Human League — Suzanne Sulley, Phil Oakey and Joanne Catherall — are still friends. That's something to boast about, anyway

If Phil Oakey's band, the Human League, has been characterised by anything in its 15 years as a threesome, it is its appealing mix of pop star glamour and kitchen sink realism. Famously, on the departure of Ian Marsh and Martyn Ware in 1980, Oakey recruited Susanne Sulley and Joanne Catherall, having seen the two teenagers dancing together at a city discotheque.

Other bands of the era made videos on yachts, but the Human League's *Don't You Want Me?*, a No 1 hit both here and in America, opened with a Svengali's bitter observation to the protégée who no longer needs him: "You were working as a waitress in a cocktail bar when I met you."

In real life, Sulley and Catherall have remained loyal to the man whose offer whisked them away from revising for their A levels. Over time they have become an essential part of the group's sound and image. That they sing with deadpan ordinariness has merely added to the charm, as has their dedication to dressing up at all times in a manner befitting those who were rarely far from the *Top of the Pops* studio throughout the early 1980s.

When I meet them, for example, although no photographer is on hand to record their splendour, Sulley is sporting a micro-suit of scarlet silk with matching stilettos, Catherall something all-enveloping but bandage-tight in black.

Oakey, pretending to be dazzled, slips on a pair of predictably stylish sunglasses. "Well, if you're putting *yours* on," Sulley pouts, pulling out of her bag the world's largest pair of black, wraparound shades, "*my outfit* looks a lot better when I'm wearing these."

The easy banter they and Catherall exchange speaks of a *mutual deep affection*, one which cannot but have helped to hold the Human League together while other contemporaries have hit the heights, imploded, undertaken solo projects, reformed and then disappeared again.

All three cheerfully admit to having been lazy and lackadaisical in running their professional lives. A week on Monday, for example, they begin what is only their third UK tour, and their first for eight years. "What was your manager playing at, allowing you to be as inactive as that?" I ask. Oh, I see: you *didn't* have a manager for the past nine years.

> "We can do really well, but only if we work hard"

"We sometimes wonder just what it is we have been doing," Oakey admits. "We've rather dawdled along, then one by one we've had semi-nervous breakdowns, which have taken up a bit of time. Somehow we just never got the hang of capitalising on our successes. We never put out records when we should have, never toured when it was the right time. In fact, we haven't been very smart at all."

Until recently. What prevented the Human League from following the same downwards trajectory of peers such as ABC, Living in a Box and Spandau Ballet is that they functioned as a necessary bridge between chilly German computer-experimentalism and the tastes of the average British high street shopper; and that all those who were young and had ears when their ground-breaking album *Dare* was released in 1981 retain a great affection for the band. Perhaps that is what encouraged the East West label to lure the band from Virgin a little over a year ago. Whatever the reason, being on a new label has brought a new level of motivation.

Oh, and they've finally got themselves a manager — and not just any old one. "We weren't sure about Miles Copeland, him being this right-wing American [who had managed the Police] and us being three Labour-voting bozos from Yorkshire, but it's worked out really well," Sulley says.

So it should have; Sting once described Copeland as the best manager in the world. Certainly his involvement, combined with that of East West, seems to have kicked the band's collective rear. "It's like we've realised that we can do really well, but only if we work hard," Oakey says. "Previously we hadn't cracked on to the link between the two things. And the enthusiasm of everyone around us has rubbed off. Because they're all doing so much on our behalf, we don't want to let them down."

A new studio LP, to be recorded early next year, is likely to find the band returning to its hardcore Germanic roots. Oakey, who still goes clubbing and who notes almost with bemusement that the kids he encounters there are astonishingly friendly towards veterans such as himself, has been fired by his discovery of the relentlessly fast-paced music generated by Germany's rave culture.

"So I'll continue to resist every attempt to turn me into a crooner, or for us to concentrate on ballads or cover versions," Oakey says. "The music that's sweeping the clubs of Europe and northern England is directly related to that which we ourselves helped pioneer. That's the way forward for us."

"But always within the context of proper songs," interject Sulley and Catherall. "The Human League will always be about songs."

"Will there be any dance routines this time round?" I ask. "I saw you play live in 1987 and I loved the way you kept climbing up and down staircases in time to the music."

"No fancy footwork either, sad to say. These days you have to compete with Take That, and we're just not up to it."

● *The Human League begin their 13-date UK tour at the Portsmouth Guildhall on October 29, and end it at the Albert Hall on November 14.*

● *Ahead of a greatest hits collection, to be released on October 31, Virgin has issued a remixed version of* Don't You Want Me?

Nothing humble about Pumpkin pie

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness
(Hut HUTDMC 30)
IN the wake of Nirvana's ugly demise and with the passing of grunge, a triumvirate of goliath bands has emerged at the helm of the new American heavy-rock establishment. Soundgarden and Pearl Jam have already proved themselves, commercially and artistically, beyond reasonable doubt. Now it is the turn of the Smashing Pumpkins to show what they are capable of.

The Chicago four-piece have risen to the challenge with a work of such vaulting ambition that to call it their magnum opus sounds a bit of an understatement. The first bona fide double-album of new material ever released by a rock band in the CD era, the absurdly-titled *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* boasts 28 songs, and clocks in at more than two hours.

From the opening, neo-classical air, played on piano and strings, to the closing chords of *Farewell and Goodnight*, the album dips and swerves through jagged peaks of grandiose, heavy-metal melodrama (*Jellybelly*, *Tales of a Scorched Earth*) and lush valleys of calm, semi-acoustic balladry (*Cupid De Locke*, *In the Arms of Sleep*).

Through it all, the emotional tenor is determined by the whining voice and personality of songwriter Billy Corgan, yet another of those pop millionaire misanthropes, who seems to feel the world owes him an apology for making him the star that he is. "Despite all my rage/I am still just a rat in a cage," he snarls in *Bullet with Butterfly Wings*, a defining lyric and one of the best choruses on the album.

For all its colourful contrasts and complexities, there is something cold and unapproachable about the album overall. There are few tunes that can be latched onto with ease, and to swallow it whole requires a leap of faith which

NEW ALBUMS: Smashing claimants to America's rock throne; acoustic Hynde-sight

the casual listener is unlikely to make. A monumental accomplishment, but as we all know, size is not everything.

PRETENDERS
The Isle Of View
(WEA 0630-12059)
AN *Unplugged* album in all but name, *The Isle Of View* finds Chrissie Hynde leading her boys through live, acoustic performances of the group's old hits and other bits. Taped in front of an invited audience at a London recording studio over two nights last May, the album provides a welcome opportunity to reappraise favourites such as *Chill Factor*, *Brass in Pocket* and *Hymn to Her* in a more relaxed and intimate setting than before.

It is an intriguing exercise, since the new arrangements remove at a stroke the group's trademark "jangly" guitar sound, thereby throwing the emphasis entirely on their key asset: Hynde's extraordinary voice. Taking full advantage of the increased scope for vocal dynamics, she turns in a bravura performance, deploying her aching vibrato to conjure a mood of wistful nostalgia on *Back on the Chain Gang* and *I Go to Sleep*, and a tone of frosty hauteur on *Private Life* and *I Hurt You*.

Not all the numbers respond to the treatment so well. *The Phone Call* is an unequivocal rock song, and the piston-like steps in its arrangement sound contrived when played on acoustic guitars.

And then there is the obligatory string section, the bane of so many *Unplugged* sessions. Although fine as a discreet addition now and then, the violins, viola and cello of the Duke Quartet get the upper hand during a slowed-down version of *Kid* and tip the scales from sentimental to sickly in *2,000 Miles*.

THE SHAMEN
Axis Mutatis/Arbor Bona Arbor Mala
(One Little Indian TPLPS2CD/R)
ALTHOUGH an established presence in the mysterious world of dance and techno, the Shamen have clung tenaciously to their conventional pop roots. Several of the early tracks on *Axis Mutatis*, including the recent hit *Destination Eschaton*, sound more like Erasure or OMD than the work of a band bent on exploring the boundaries of what is sonically feasible.

However, later tracks drift off into the realms of spacey experimentalism, and the album is marketed, for a limited period, with a companion disc, *Arbor Bona Arbor Mala*, which offers "ambient interpretations" of the group's songs. Here a world of nebulous sounds and bubbling techno semi-rhythms evolve into strange swirling shapes that stretch on, seemingly, forever. Nice stuff, if you can wait for it to unravel.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
Peel Slowly and See
(Polydor/Chronicles 31452 7887; 5-disc boxed set)
A SINGULARLY impressive piece of rock'n'roll archaeology, *Peel Slowly and See* assembles the core legacy of the Velvet Underground — the four studio albums recorded between 1965 and 1970 — and adds a generous helping of rare and previously unreleased material, including early demo versions of *Venus in Furs*, *Heroin*, *I'm Waiting for the Man* and others.

All the tracks have been scrupulously remastered and the package comes with copious illustrations and an illuminating essay by *Rolling Stone* journalist David Fricke.

Working from the simplest of musical building blocks, the Velvet Underground created a body of work whose influence has been incalculable. *Peel Slowly and See* successfully exposes the nuts and bolts of that creative process as well as celebrating the group's formidable achievements.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Life	Simply Red (East West)
2	(What's The Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
3	Design Of A Decade 1986/1996	Janet Jackson (A&M)
4	Stanley Road	Paul Weller (Go! Discs)
5	Daydream	Mariah Carey (Columbia)
6	Greatest Hits 1985-1995	Michael Bolton (Columbia)
7	The Great Escape	Blur (Food)
8	Picture This	Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
9	Insomniac	Green Day (Reprise)
10	All Change	Cast (Polydor)

© CIN

Don't trample on feet of clay

Noel Gallagher may be a boor, but that's got nothing to do with his day job, says **Caitlin Moran**

It's one of those primary, gut-kicking, squeally-mouthed urges human beings have, the urge for *more*. It's why the pudding menu exists; why there are all those extramarital, quick!-jump-inelegantly-into-the-bushes affairs. Were we in heaven, we would long for a mega-heaven.

The urge for more is part of the reason why Noel Gallagher from *Oasis's shooting-from-the-hip-straight-into-his-foot* comments some weeks back caused such a stir: we don't just want our musicians to knock out albums that make us yell with the sheer *joy* of it. They must *also* be socially aware, enlightened demi-gods with a cure for the world's ills all ready to be rolled out in between albums.

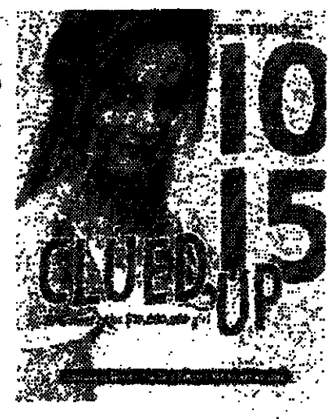
And we get *disappointed* when they can't manage all these things. Gallagher's comments — "I hate that Alex and Damon [from Blur]. I hope they catch Aids and die" — were thoughtless pub-thug dribbling, the *kind of* thing witless 15-year-old boys say in squally spats with former mates. Gallagher obviously didn't mean it, and *has since* apologised — handsomely and repeatedly.

But he is now damaged goods; a tattered star; a stained icon. And, therefore, his band's latest album is tattered, stained and tainted by the mouth of its creator. The reviews of *What's the Story (Morning Glory?)* have been, almost across the board, desultory: "hackneyed", "tired", "lacklustre", "treading water". In the absence of a star to take to task, his art has been taken to task instead. In this age of media-enforced self-consciousness, the artist and his art are *one and the same*. So, if the composer is a foul-mouthed bigot, then his songs are, similarly, festering sores and boorish, lowbrow propoganda.

It really is a *superhuman demand* on our artists that their every pronouncement should be filled with wisdom and the milk of human kindness; that their every action be charitable. We are talking about *pop stars* here — they're supposed to be leather-clad, fire-snorting *beasts*. And it would be an appalling loss to our record collections if we compiled them according to the personalities of the people who made the albums.

For the record, *What's The Story* is a *far* superior effort to their debut. It's a huge, rolling snapshot of 1995, an album that proves that, while Noel Gallagher may have a lot to learn about liberalism and diplomacy, he has *nothing* to learn about being one of the greatest songwriters of the 1990s.

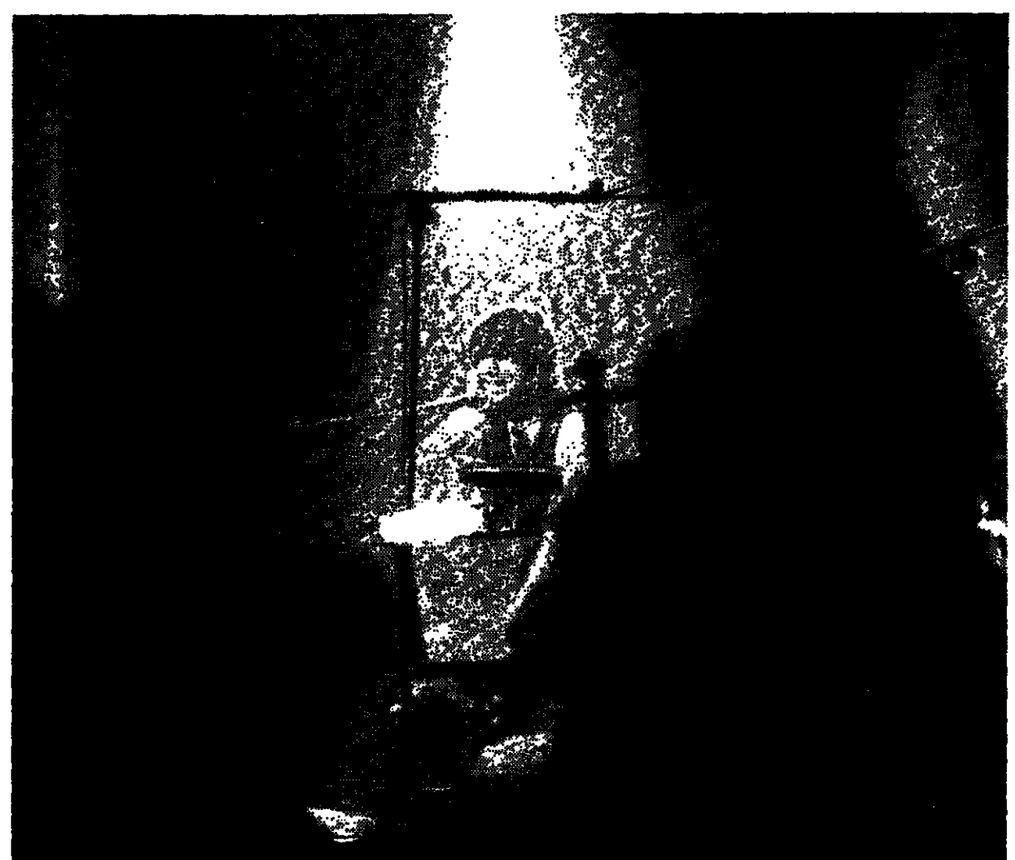
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In collaboration with other senior staff, the Director will play a major part in institutional development and will be responsible for ensuring that the University's staffing policies contribute to the achievement of its overall aims and objectives.

The University seeks a professionally qualified and experienced appointee with good communication skills. Previous experience in the Higher Education sector would be an advantage.

Salary will be within the range for Administrative Staff Grade 6, current minimum £31,999 per annum.

Information from Personnel, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QJ; (01392) 263100 or e:mail Personnel@exeter.ac.uk, quoting reference no. 4030. Closing date: 10 November 1995.

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The College currently has a body of 2200 full-time and 600 part-time students, organised in four faculties — Applied Sciences, Art & Music, Education & Human Sciences and Humanities, and employs 320 fte academic and support staff. The College awards its own degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has achieved strong research funding. The Director is the Chief Executive of the College, responsible to the Board of Governors for the strategic direction of BCHE, its academic and financial excellence.

Applicants will have academic or professional qualifications at postgraduate level. They will have had a distinguished career, primarily in the Higher Education sector, and will have operated at Assistant Principal level or above in an HE institution. They will be able to demonstrate a successful record of strategic planning, as well as senior management leadership in an institutional context.

Candidates must have a strong record of academic development, and be able to achieve the leadership and respect of the academic community. They will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the essentially vocational nature of BCHE's mission, and its positioning within the HE sector, regionally, nationally and internationally.

The post, initially as Director-designate, is available on a 5 year contract, commencing April 1996, or at latest, the start of the 1996/97 academic year. An appropriate remuneration package will include obligatory free accommodation on campus and car mileage allowance.

Suitably qualified persons wishing to be considered for this post should contact Tony Dewberry, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Bath College of Higher Education, Newton Park, Newton St Loe, Bath BA2 9BN, from whom an application form and further particulars may be obtained. Tel: 01225 873701.

Closing date for applications: 10th November 1995.

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Robinson College wishes to appoint a Director of Development, who will be responsible for fund-raising in support of the College's 21st Birthday Appeal in 1998. This will be a particularly challenging appointment: as a young College, Robinson has a relatively small body of alumni, so that the Appeal will have to rely heavily on other sources of funds.

The successful candidate will probably have previous experience of fund-raising for a charity. He or she will become a member of the Senior Combination Room and will be expected to play a full part in the life of the College.

The salary will be in the region of £30,000 - £36,000 p.a., and it is hoped that the successful candidate can start in February 1996 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The closing date for completed applications is 17th November. Further particulars are available from the Warden's Secretary, Robinson College, Cambridge CB3 9AN, fax (01223) 339260.

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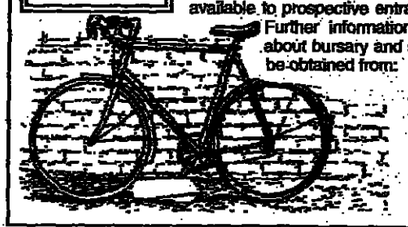
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A willingness to encourage students of both sexes and all cultural backgrounds is a prerequisite for the position. The Faculty is committed to the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching and research; experience in an interdisciplinary field is likely to be an advantage.

The position is available from 15 February 1996 for a period of five years with a possibility of renewal.

Further details about the duties of the position, including a selection criteria, may be obtained from Ms Judith Wilson, Department of German Studies, telephone 618 8303 5642, facsimile 618 8303 3343, email dthiel@arts.adelaide.edu.au

Candidates should address the selection criteria in their application.

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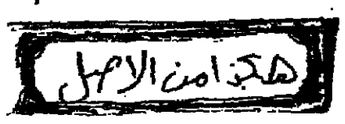
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EDUCATION

Pupils left behind in the race for results

School examination league tables are being distorted, says **John O'Leary**

Stand by for more good news about examination pass rates. The Government's school league tables, to be published next month, will show scores of schools increasing the number of teenagers with five top-grade GCSE passes. If the pattern of the past two years is repeated, those at the bottom of the tables will show the greatest improvement. But are standards really rising, or are schools distorting the picture?

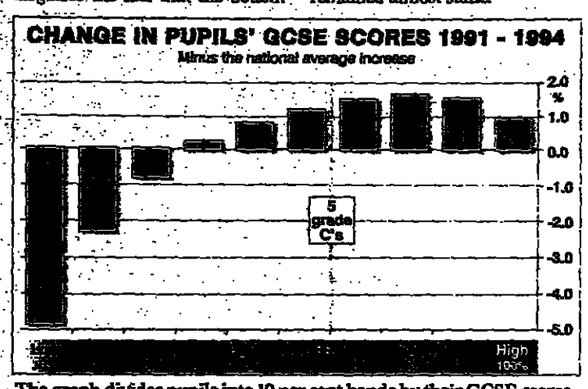
Give educationists a formula and they will find a way of turning it to their advantage. Universities have demonstrated this over many years, reacting to funding formulae by varying recruitment and refocusing research.

A closer look at the league tables suggests that schools are playing the same game. Since they are ranked according to the proportion of 15-year-olds with five A-C grades, it makes sense to concentrate on pupils who are on the margins of those scores. They are easy to identify from coursework.

In this context, work with lower-ability groups with no real prospect of top grades is a waste of effort. And the tables suggest that the message has not been lost on some schools, for the bottom groups have failed to match the improvement of their brighter peers.

Sir Tim Lankester, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment, noted with satisfaction in *The Times Educational Supplement* this month that schools in the bottom quarter of the league tables have made the most progress since the Government began publishing results. But the emphasis on the performances of schools as a whole disguises the fact that the bottom quarter of pupils have dropped farther behind in the same period.

While those achieving five C grades or more at GCSE have improved by an average of at least 6 per cent in three years, the quarter of pupils with the worst results have gone up by less than half this amount. The performance of the bottom 10 per cent has remained almost static.



The graph divides pupils into 10 per cent bands by their GCSE scores. Blocks show the percentage variation from the average improvement.

There may be any number of reasons for the discrepancy, including disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the curriculum, but many experts believe that the methods used to compile the league tables are partly to blame. Charles Bell, the co-ordinator of the pressure group Article 26, which has conducted a full analysis of recent GCSE results, says: "The improvement at the top end has been achieved at the expense of those at the bottom. It seems that many schools have targeted those of middling ability because improvement among low-achievers is not recognised."

Independent schools, for example, achieved spectacular increases among those on the margins of five Cs in the year that they were first required to enter the league tables. This group — in the lower regions of the independent sector — improved by an average of three grades in 1993.

Nationally, even the top 10 per cent of pupils has not kept pace with the improvement among the "middling" group identified by Article 26. Professor Carol Fitz-Gibbon, of Newcastle University, who has carried out a number of studies for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, says: "Teachers admit that they are concentrating on pushing up D grade students, which is not fair to the rest. I think that the National Audit Office should blow the whistle on this."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, drew attention to the gap in achievement between the top and bottom groups in a weekend radio interview. The Article 26 research shows that it has been widening and is likely to increase, with far more teenagers expected to have left school this year without any qualifications.

Professor Alan Smithers, the director of Manchester University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, says: "We certainly are not encouraging the lower part of the ability range to develop their talents as they should. Our best pupils compare favourably with those of other countries, but the bottom half in key subjects like mathematics or the mother tongue are a long way behind."

As long as the league tables appear in their present form, schools will have no incentive to make this group a priority, Professor Smithers believes. "The present neglect is very bad for people with low results, but it is bad for all of us because it doesn't make for a socially cohesive society."

Mr Bell's solution is to calculate results on a points system similar to the one used for A levels. With each grade counting towards an average per pupil, the school would be judged on all its results, and not just those above grade C. "Local authorities and schools should be doing this calculation now, so that they can see if they have a problem with low-achievers."

Ministers will be reluctant to alter a system that the public recognises. Robin Squire, the Education Minister, said last week: "None of us should underestimate the way in which the information revolution spearheaded by performance tables has helped to focus us all on achievement and outcomes."

The question is whether it is focusing on the right outcomes. As the equivalent of five O levels, the present threshold is an important benchmark, which many more teenagers have reached thanks to the tables. But that is little consolation to the rest.

BOB COLLIER/REUTER



Successful pupils celebrate, but are some schools neglecting low-achievers to push brighter children?

Lucy Hodges has a schoolwear shock for her daughter after returning from America to Britain

Is a uniform approach the most attractive?

As I look at English education with new eyes after five-and-a-half years in America, what stands out are our traditions. Take school uniform. In the United States, uniform is virtually unknown, except in a few private schools. Every morning American children don sneakers and baggy jeans or, in summer, sneakers and shorts. I suppose it is a uniform in its own way.

But it allows for individuality. Each pair of baggy jeans is different. Some contain more holes than others, most are blue denim but some are weird and wonderful colours. The point is that children can choose what to wear. They can experiment with colour and shape. They can wear their hair loose or tied back.

On our return to Britain, we had to break the news to our daughter that she would be wearing a uniform — and it would be brown. But why?

We tried to see uniform in a positive light. Yes, maybe it papers over differences in social class and economic status by putting everyone on the same level. It probably makes teachers' lives easier by giving children something harmless to rebel against.

But are these good enough reasons for insisting on the whole paraphernalia of regulation skirts, blazer, tights, raincoat, not to mention games skirt and shirt? Are they justification for making parents spend £100 or more? Our conclusion was that children wear uniform because of tradition. And teachers favour it because it makes children more biddable.

Personally, I much prefer the look of uniform to today's grunge. Black tights and crisp white blouses under sweatshirts look infinitely more stylish than over-sized jeans with the crotch worn around the knees. But there's the rub.

In the United States, children are given autonomy and encouraged to be independent. They arrange their own social lives on the telephone from the age of six. They are treated as people — at school they are called students rather than pupils — and regard teachers as their allies, if not their friends. Such mateyness creates an easy familiarity between teacher and taught.

> Punishments are for dishonesty or rudeness, not for wearing the wrong socks

To a Briton schooled in the art of showing respect, this familiarity is sometimes offensive. I will never forget my daughter's school ski-trip to a little mountain in Pennsylvania. We were standing in a queue waiting for the chairlift when two small children, aged about ten, began prodding a young man in the behind with their ski poles. We couldn't see who he was because he was shrouded in ski gear.

"Hey, Mr Telloch," yelled the two girls, poking him in the buttocks. Sure enough, it was a hapless teacher. He smiled cheerily and waved his ski pole back while we stiffened and looked silently at one another. "What a way to treat a teacher," we thought.

At my daughter's English private school, the children stand up when a teacher enters the room and chant: "Good morning, Miss so-and-so". To me, this signifies a necessary respect, and I'm sure it gets the lesson off to an calm and orderly start. To an American-educated child, of course, it sounds unnatural.

What matters in the end is the kind of adults we are producing. The American system is designed to educate confident, adaptable people, grounded in the basics, able to go out into the world and make something of themselves. It doesn't always succeed, just as our system sometimes doesn't.

The good thing about America is that petty rules and restrictions are kept to a minimum. Students and staff get on with the business of learning, thinking and relating to one another. Punishments are meted out for dishonesty or rudeness, not for wearing the wrong colour socks.

I am not saying all tradition is bad, just that we need to take a hard look at what we are doing and why. Children are easily brainwashed. My daughter has already taken to her uniform. "You know," she said to me, "the good thing about uniform is that you don't have to think about what you're going to put on every morning." I hope she doesn't stop thinking altogether.



Should children express their individuality, or is Prince William's Eton outfit ideal?

Superstars of the science lab

Is commerce damaging pure research, asks **Colin Campbell**

BARELY a day passes without one or other of the quality newspapers featuring a research breakthrough at a British university. Frequently, when medical researchers believe they are getting close to a cure for some terrible disease, the headlines are eye-catching.

Every institution, and most individual academics, enjoy seeing the fruits of their labour recognised, not only by their peers in the pages of learned journals, but also through the quality press and broadcast media.

All of this is a valuable advertisement for the quality of British higher education and academic research.

But it also has to be accepted that the whole question of publication in the wider world is the subject of fierce debate within the leading research universities.

This is particularly so where heavily funded but basically fundamental work rarely has a sufficiently populist appeal to satisfy the headline writers, or where medical researchers are rightly wary about publishing too early and raising too many hopes of miracle cures. At Nottingham, our research funding has more than quadrupled in the past ten years. Our 1994-95 research awards of £40 million represented a 22 per cent increase over the record-breaking £32.8 million of the previous year.



Professor Grierson and his super tomato plants

Many projects, including the development through genetic engineering of the "perfect supermarket tomato" by Professor Don Grierson and his team, or the first application of magnetic resonance imaging as a medical diagnostic technique, which won for Professor Peter Mansfield international acclaim and a well-deserved knighthood, have gained significant media coverage.

For many years, Nottingham has featured either first or in the top five of British universities for funding from private industry and commerce. Many of the results and findings from our research projects achieve what is, in the necessarily measured academic timescale, a relatively rapid commercial or medical application.

Other projects which attract millions of pounds of funding from both research councils and the private sector, and are of tremendous potential importance in many fields, are by their nature slower to identify specific applications. They are, understandably, less attractive to the media.

Nottingham encourages all its academic staff to look "beyond research" to the needs of the end-user and consider technology transfer in its broadest sense, together with the implications it has for wealth creation and the quality of life.

Going beyond research implies not only using research results and ideas for commercial activity but also in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Research excellence underpins everything we do at Nottingham, and the quality of our graduates is a significant aspect of our technology transfer.

Three questions are constantly being asked: how can a university maintain its credibility as a centre for fundamental research while at the same time publicising innovations that will be a success in the marketplace?

Do academics lose credibility among their peers if they appear frequently in the popular press?

Do they run the risk of being regarded by colleagues as media performers first and researchers second?

The pursuit of fundamental research, vital to Britain's future, is a difficult activity to communicate to the public, as everyone involved in moves to popularise science has discovered. By contrast, much of our work in the humanities and social sciences, for example, on D. H. Lawrence or risk analysis in economics, is more accessible. It would be tempting to change what we do in order to make it appear that our research is closer to the marketplace and consequently, in the short-term view, of greater value.

Such an attitude would be damaging, not only to the future wellbeing of the nation, but also to our own mission to be at the cutting edge of research.

We will continue to encourage researchers to publish their findings, but we will not neglect those of our researchers working in the more fundamental areas, and press for the importance of their contribution being recognised.

● *Sir Colin Campbell is the Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University*

The language of national interest

Graham Furniss argues that we should learn to talk to foreigners

Despite the compassion shown in projects such as Comic Relief and Live Aid, the British often exhibit a deep distrust of foreigners. Ranging from the mildly Euro-sceptic to the outright xenophobic, this trait has been reinforced by a very narrow definition of "the national interest" from politicians and commentators.

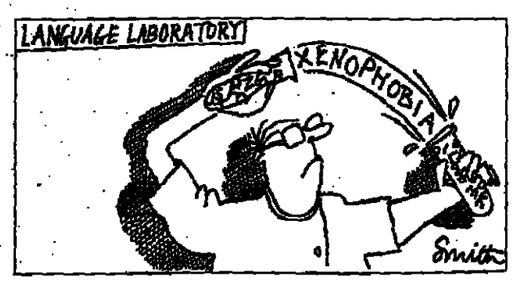
British interests have sometimes been defined simply in terms of strategic defence. Bluntly put, if that lot over there are not in a position to bomb us, or attack one of our allies, then there is no British national interest in that part of the world.

At other times, the overriding factor has been the commercial interests of British companies; if there is no money to be made in a given part of the world now or in the next three or four years, then there is no national interest.

I would argue that our nation's interest, or the interests of the British people, go far wider than simply defence and trade. Key world problems such as environmental destruction and regional conflicts have a bearing on us in Britain and require us to take a keen interest in what is going on all over the world.

Even where British commercial interests are involved, we often take a rather short-sighted view of what is needed to protect, promote and expand our commercial relationships with other countries. Unlike many of our competitors we often don't bother to learn the languages and understand the cultures of the countries with which we do business. There is much evidence to suggest that this adversely affects our competitive performance in world markets.

Commercial competitors, such as the Germans, or the Japanese or the Koreans, often speak very good English. The French as a nation are, like us, generally resistant to learning foreign languages, but they do have a more integrated view of a common purpose between business, trade, education and



foreign policy. The various parts of government that advance foreign policy — from arms sales and economic assistance to cultural organisations — often seem to work hand in hand as far as the French sphere of influence is concerned. The British have a much more fragmented approach which weakens our efforts to promote British interests, whether in defence, commerce or culture.

I see a positive and important role for the teaching and study of languages in our society today. In particular, I see the teaching of Asian and African languages as one activity among many which support and keep alive an informed, internationalist spirit in this country.

The first problem for teachers is to find the most effective way to transmit competence in the language. We try using modern technology, from the language lab to the Internet by way of CD-Roms and the ubiquitous Walkman, but it is what happens in the classroom that makes all the difference to speedy competence.

Language learning is not a single activity. There are at least four quite separate skills to be learnt: listening, speaking, reading and writing. While most language teaching aims to impart skills in all these areas, the needs of a learner can vary quite radically: no doubt CIA eavesdroppers during the Cold War needed to be able to listen and understand both contemporary Russian slang as well as Russian dialects and accents, but maybe they had no need to be able to read or to write Russian, or even to speak it.

The second concern is a much more unfashionable one. Where competence acquisition has been seen in the last 20 years as a primary purpose, and occasionally exclusively so, we have tried to temper that purely utilitarian attitude with another view. Language study is also an intellectual training in its own right.

Much of what young people will need to be able to do in the world of work is to understand and use complex systems that have their own internal rules, and at the same time they need to be able to absorb and retain myriad bits of information. To learn and study a language is a perfect training in precisely these transferable skills of systems analysis and data storage.

The third component in our juggling act is the main focus of many teachers' interests. It is language as the key which opens the door into another culture. Clearly, it is possible to do many kinds of research without a knowledge of the local language. Macro-economists use data available in English, or perhaps French, and set their computers to crunch their numbers for countries and cultures unknown to them personally.

But anyone interested in what people think in that country or how they behave economically, or what motivates them politically, must clearly operate in the language, or a language, of that society.

● *The author is dean of languages at London University's School of African and Oriental Studies.*

Hill under fire for conceding title race

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN AIDA, JAPAN

AN AIR of pastoral calm hung over the deserted circuit here yesterday. Michael Schumacher kicked a football about in the paddock and Damon Hill sauntered around the track on a broken leg that appears to have healed remarkably quickly. Everything seemed right with the world, far away from the hustle of the teeming cities, but the locals are worried trouble is coming.

They say the unseasonally warm weather is a warning that another earthquake is drawing near and, as they fret, the Formula One motor racing drivers do their best to echo the prediction in their own arena. The championship is all but over but each driver is gathering himself for a thunderous final effort this weekend.

Schumacher insisted that he would not attempt to cruise to the fourth place he needs to secure his second successive championship but would go all out to claim victory. Hill, who passed a medical yesterday and does not expect to suffer any discomfort from his right leg during the Pacific Grand Prix on Sunday, backtracked from his concession of the title to his German rival.

"My goal here is to keep hope alive," Hill said. "You have always got to hope. The championship is still a possibility for me, although realistically I suppose you have got to say it is only a matter of time until Michael scores the three points he needs. On top of that, though, it would be great if Williams-Renault could win the constructors' championship and David Coulthard and I have to get the best results we possibly can to try to achieve that.

"Michael had a big accident in testing at Imola last week and it reminds you how perilous this business can be and how it all hangs by a thread. The moment you think you have got it in the bag is the time when you really have to concentrate. That is something that every driver recognises."

As Hill spoke, though, both Coulthard and Martin Brundle questioned his attitude and his racing skills after a series of inconsistent performances. The young Scot, who has his sights set on finishing above his team-mate in the championship race, said he would not have conceded the title to Schumacher, as Hill did three weeks ago, until it was mathematically impossible for him to be overhauled.

"I cannot see myself ever allowing myself to give up," Coulthard said. "If you give up once, you will always give up. I did not agree with what he said and I made that clear at the time. No matter how unlikely it is, if it can be done it can be done. Michael has to drop out three times and Damon has to win three times, but that is possible."

Brundle, who learnt yesterday that he has been replaced by Aguri Suzuki for the next two races at Ligier, claimed that many of his fellow drivers had lost some respect for Hill recently. "Damon has to do two things," he said. "First, he has to establish himself as the No 1 at Williams for next year so the team can give him their full suport. Second, he has to re-establish himself as a racer. Maybe he needs to lose a front wheel once or twice to re-establish himself."

If the earthquake is coming, after the season he has had, Hill looks certain to be at its epicentre.



Coulthard: critical

ROBIN MAYES



Bates, left, and Harding, right, keep their distance at the book launch, flanking Buckland, the author, and Lord Attenborough

Frosty fandango at the Bridge of whys

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 11, 1970, Chelsea played Leeds United in the FA Cup final at Wembley. At the end of 90 minutes the score was 2-2 and it remained 2-2 after extra time.

The teams replayed at Old Trafford 18 days later. Leeds scored in the first half. Chelsea in the second. Then, in the dying minutes of the first half of the second period of extra time, 223 minutes into the longest Cup Final on record, David Webb scored the winner for the London team.

As this occurred 25 years ago, was Chelsea's finest hour and they have not had a lot about which to crow since, a Chelsea supporter — one who has already written books on beer and football — has compiled a modest volume replete with pictures called *Blue is the Colour**. It is sponsored by Coors, who tell us: "The yeast used to make Coors Extra Gold is flown from the US to the UK in a business class seat."

In the Stamford Bridge bar, where the book party took place, members of the press, footballers of yore (none of whom looked significantly better than they did), Chelsea-supporting luvvies and politicians mingled while they awaited action. "I hope," the author speaking to us said when she eventually got to her malfunctioning microphone — after the coffee and biscuits, before the buffet lunch — "that this book will give you as much pleasure to read as it gave me to write." From the expression on the faces of those who had perused the 92 pages, it was evident that Ms Khadija Buckland has had a wretched time.

Chelsea's ground is at present a giant building site; a new North Stand is in the process of erection and the heavy dust of cement clouds a scenario of intense uptight rivalry worthy of soap opera.

There is egregious Chairman Ken, paid executive and for 13 years the only Chelsea voice allowed to be heard. He is a grey-bearded buccaneer, born with a club-foot which would cause others to limp but gives Bates a swagger. In his time he has quarried gravel in Lancashire, founded a Dublin bank which went to the wall, and made money in sugar in Australia, land reclamation in the West Indies and building in South Africa.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

For four years he was going to save Oldham Athletic but gave up the uneven struggle and came to Chelsea. Like Gianni Agnelli, of Fiat, he believes that a successful company needs an uneven number of directors and three is too many. There is a story, no doubt apocryphal, about the Ken Bates postage stamp — in test marketing it was found to slide from envelopes; apparently people were spitting on the wrong side. Under Bates, Chelsea flip-flopped between the two top divisions; the natives became restless.

The second lead in the cast of two is Matthew Harding: aged 41, blokish son of an insurance man, passionate about Chelsea, whom he has supported since the age of eight. He was as miserable about the club's performance as his mates on the terraces, only Harding, having followed his father into the City and set up the Benfield Group, is worth over £150 million. So he bought the Chelsea ground (£16.5 million), Ruud Gullit (£4.5 million), gave the club a £2.5 million loan for future purchases, became a director and is too bright a man, too astute an operator, to have us believe he has no ambition to oust the Chairman asap.

There is an uneasy relationship between the men; a noticeable frigidity flows from the Chairman's partner to the new landlord.

As an occasion, *Blue is the Colour*'s launch gave little cause to delight those who had made the journey down the Fulham Road: tea and coffee were adequate, biscuits unsurprising in their ordinariness and the buffet reminiscent of Florida restaurants offering "all you can eat for $9.99". It was the tension which was compulsive: the fandango, danced to the muted sounds of two dozen television screens depicting Chelsea players' aerobics, which never had Bates, holding a glass of wine, in the same close-camera shot as Harding, who drinks Guinness.

Who asked the guests to arrive at 11.30 when nothing happened until 12.25? Who forgot to switch on the microphone until the author's speech was nearly over? Where was David Mellor ... and Hoddle and Gullit and Hughes? Where was the optimism which we had come to witness?

Harding, we were told, bought the books given to guests and paid for the buffet, so what was Bates doing there and should not the presence of Lord Attenborough, Tony Banks, MP, Clive Mantle, of *Casualty*, have been exploited? Why is the yeast for Coors flown across the Atlantic in business class?

There's much to explain. This story has the makings of a series that will run.

**Blue is the Colour* (£14.99, published by Red House)

Business as usual for teams not involved in big event

BY NICK HARLING

SOMEHOW, while the eyes of the basketball world are focused on Houston Rockets in the McDonald's Championship at the London Arena this weekend, ten Budweiser League clubs must find it within themselves to fulfil their domestic obligations.

What they would all give to be in the position of Sheffield Sharks, even if the Sharks only have to play a match tomorrow morning to decide fifth and sixth places in the event which serves as the unofficial world club championship. For that they will receive either $15,000 (about £10,000) or $20,000, not bad for a club formed just 18 months ago.

Sheffield's good fortune was to win the league in the year that the McDonald's event was coming to Britain. Had they triumphed in any other year, they would not have been considered.

The Leopards, meanwhile, have had to vacate their home court at the London Arena for the duration and travel to play Chester Jets on Sunday. "We don't feel left out," Billy Mims, the Leopards coach, insisted. "We're pulling for Sheffield throughout. They earned the right to be there.

"I want all my kids to be watching. These are champion basketball teams from all over the world and I would like my players to aspire to be of their calibre. Sometimes it's better to sit back and watch. They will be able to see the difference between them and us. They will be able to ask themselves why they are there and we are not."

Worthing Bears entertain Doncaster Panthers tomorrow night hoping to avenge their one league defeat of the season. The Bears go to Leicester City Riders on Sunday while the Panthers entertain Derby Storm in the 7-Up Trophy.

Hemel Hempstead Royals and Manchester Giants tip off at the unusual hour of 1.30pm on Sunday at the Dacorum Centre. However, there will be a more orthodox starting time at Wembley Court (5pm), when London Towers attempt to join the Sharks at the top of the Budweiser League by beating Newcastle Comets.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand comes with the heading 'to draw trump or not to draw trump, that is the question' — typical of the jokey style ('trump' is the American spelling) of my old friend Eddie Kantar. He has won the Bermuda Bowl and also played table tennis for the US, a unique double. He is the fittest bridge player I've ever come across; he used to split sets with Margaret Court.

Nowadays if you want to speak to him go down to Venice Beach in Santa Monica. He will be sitting proof-reading his latest book, waiting to cut into the next game of paddle tennis.

Dealer South — Love all

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Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Jack of Clubs

South opens One Heart and rebids Four Hearts over his partner's 1 NT response. How should he play on the lead of the jack of clubs? This is Kantar's analysis: "The name of the game is 10. You need 10 tricks so count to see how many you have. You have six hearts, two clubs and one diamond for sure. Where is the 10th one coming from? It is going to come from ruffing the fourth club in dummy with the ten of hearts.

"Win the king of clubs, discard a spade on the ace of diamonds, cross to the ace of clubs and concede a club. No matter what, you can ruff your fourth club for your 10th trick.' The hand comes from the 1996 Daily *Bridge Calendar. It has a tear-off sheet with a bridge hand for each day.* I found it entertaining and it is good value at about 4p a hand. You can *order it from* CLD Stationery Ltd (tel 0171 610 9292), price £14.95.

☐ Three of the medals in the 1995 World Championships in Bejing have been decided. *In the Venice Cup, Germany obliterated the United States* over the final 32 deals to win by 312 IMPs to 248. Beate Nehmert and Andrea Rauscheid performed magnificently in the final session against Karen McCallum and Kerri Sanborn, the world's leading women players, to clinch the victory for Germany. In the play-offs for the bronze medals, France overpowered the demoralised Swedish team to win by 151-91, and France won a close match against the host nation, China, by 66-54 in the Venice Cup.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell played the United States team into a winning position against Canada. The USA won the morning session yesterday by 54 IMPs, and with 32 deals to be played today the Americans lead by 296-221. The margin is not insuperable, but it will require a super human effort by Canada to prevent the USA from regaining the title that they last won in 1989.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Systems man

I continue my series on past aspirants for the world chess title with Aron Nimzowitsch. Although Nimzowitsch never played a world championship match, there was a period, after his great victory at the tournament in Carlsbad 1929, up to his second place behind Alekhine at San Remo 1930, when Nimzowitsch could have been considered the No 2 player in the world. Indeed, his visiting card styled himself Crown prince of the chess world. His style revolved around a deep and mysterious strategy, yet, paradoxically, he also produced one of the most lucid expositions of chess generalship in his influential work *My System*. The following game, in which he reduces his opponent to utter paralysis on a board virtually full of pieces, is one of the most extraordinary on record.

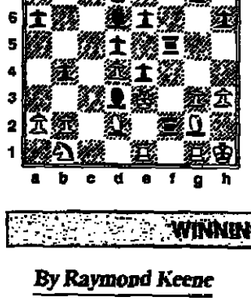
White: Fritz Saemisch
Black: Aron Nimzowitsch
Copenhagen 1923

Queen's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	g3	Bb7
5	Bg2	Be7
6	Nc3	0-0
7	0-0	d5
8	Ne5	c6
9	cxd5	cxd5
10	Bf4	a6
11	Rc1	b5
12	Qb3	Nc6
13	Nxc6	Bxc6
14	h3	Qd7
15	Kh2	Nh5
16	Bd2	f5
17	Qd1	b4
18	Nb1	Bb5
19	Rg1	Bd6
20	e4	fxe4
21	Qxh5	Rxf2
22	Qg5	Raf8
23	Kh1	R8f5
24	Qe3	Bd3
25	Rce1	h6

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Unfortunately Nimzowitsch could never cope with the dynamic sacrificial style of his great rival, Alekhine, as the following game reveals

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Aron Nimzowitsch
Bled 1931

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Nge2	dxe4
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Nxc3	f5
7	f3	exf3
8	Qxf3	Qxd4
9	Qg3	Nf6
10	Qxg7	Qe5+
11	Be2	Rg8
12	Qh6	Rg6
13	Qh4	Bd7
14	Bg5	Bc6
15	0-0-0	Bxg2
16	Rhe1	Be4
17	Bh5	Nxh5
18	Rd8+	Kf7
19	Qxh5	Black resigns

The Times World Championship book

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in *The Times* book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5/655).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TARD VENUS
a. Love in old age
b. Unexpected reinforcement
c. A Free Company

BLIGHTY ONE
a. A serious wound
b. Homeward bound troopship
c. A leave ticket

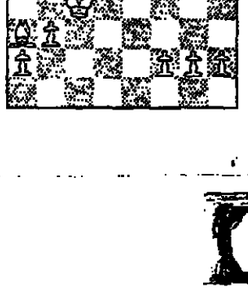
MOANING MINNIE
a. A NAAFI waitress
b. A shell
c. An ENSA songstress

GOOSE-WINGED
a. An arrow flight
b. Obsolete signalling method
c. A rig

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Anand, Intel World Championship, game 8 1995. In this complex endgame, White has dangerous play thanks to his advanced central pawns. How can he now make the most of this?

Solution on page 46

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: American League: Cleveland 4 Seattle 0 (Cleveland win best-of-seven series 4-2 and meet Atlanta Braves in the World Series).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester Giants 79 Chester Jets 74
7-UP TROPHY: Hemel Royals 63 Birmingham Bullets 86.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane: Queensland 306-5 (Stuart Law 89, Jimmy Maher 83 not out, Matthew Hayden 64) v Victoria. Perth: Western Australia 351-3 dec (M Lavender 173 not out, T Moody 57 not out). New South Wales 10-1

CYCLING

MILAN TO TURIN (207 kilometres): 1, S Zanni (It) 4hr 50mn 24sec; 2, R Sorensen (Den); 3, F Casagrande (It), 4, D Nardello (It), 5, M Gianetti (Switz) all same time

EQUESTRIANISM

MONTERREY: International show jumping: Agua Santa Meets Welcome Stakes: 1, Lamborghini (P Washberg, Ger); 2, Elacaqua (A Equa, Mex); 3, Foxhill Butterfly (D Cojuanco, Phil); 5, Randi (J Whitaker, GB)

FOOTBALL

SUPERCOPA: São Paulo (Br) 0 Olimpia (Para) 3

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Champions' League: Group A: FC Porto (Por) 0 Panathinaikos (Gr) 1, FC Nantes (Fr) 3 Aalborg (Den) 1 Group B: Legia Warsaw 1 (Pol) Blackburn 0, Rosenborg BK (Nor) 2 Spartak Moscow (Russ) 4 Group C: Juventus (It) 4 Rangers 1, Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 0 Group D: Real Madrid (Sp) 6 Ferencvaros (Hun) 1, Ajax (Holl) 3 Grasshopper Zurich (Switz) 0.

UEFA CUP: Second round, first leg: Kaiserslautern 1 Real Betis 3

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 Leek 2. First division: Alfreton 2 Lincoln United 1

FA TROPHY: First qualifying round replays: Bradford PA 2 Accrington Stanley 3 (aet, 1-1 after 90mn), Paget R 0 Winsford 2; Havant 1 Hastings 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon 2 Conwy 2. League Cup: First round: Ebbw Vale 2 Cwmbran 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 1 Oxford 3, Luton 6 Charlton 2; Norwich 2 Brighton 0; Southampton 3 West Ham 2; Wimbledon 2 Ipswich 5. League Cup: Bath 1 Plymouth 5; Cardiff 2 Birmingham 2, 1; Newport 4 Swansea 0

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett 3 Peterlee 0; Crook 2 Ferryhill 0; Durham 2 Tow Law 3; Guisborough 3 Billingham Syn 3, Murton 3 Eppleton CW 0; Shildon 2 Dunston Fed 4, Whickham 0 Seaham RS 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 3 Newcastle 1, Man Utd 3 Birmingham 0; Notts Cty 2 West Brom 1; Sheff Wed 2 Notts Forest 0. Second division: Aston Villa 2 Port Vale 2, Blackpool 4 Rotherham 0; Bradford 3 Man City 0; Middlesbrough 3 Preston 0, Sunderland 3 Coventry 0; York 0 Burnley 5. Third division: Carlisle 0 Rochdale 0; Darlington 0 Bury 2; Doncaster 4 Chester 1, Scarborough 2 Lincoln 1, Scunthorpe 1 Walsall 4; Stockport 7 Chesterfield 0, Wrexham 1 Wigan 3.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Feltham 2 Godalming and Guildford 1.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne 1 Bracknell 1; Frome 0 Odd Down 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket 2 Newmarket 0, Sudbury 0 Tiptree 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Brockenhurst 0 Andover 3

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: First round, second leg: Penrith 1 Holker Old 1; Rossendale 0 Darwen 1; St Helens 5 Burscough 0

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield 1 Thackley 2

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 5 Crowborough 2.

OTHER MATCH: Macclesfield 0 Thailand XI 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Mansfield 2 Bedworth 1; Wivenhoe 3 Hitchin 2; Sutton Utd 4 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Carshalton 2 Banstead 4; Enfield 2 Harefield 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Regional: Yorkshire 7 N England 1. Fyfe Fikins Trophy: Brierley Hill and Dudley 4 S Shropshire 1. George Elliott Memorial Trophy: Derby 5 Newcastle 0.

GOLF

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL (Spain, GB and Ireland unless stated): Leaders after two rounds: Parlade (par 72): 136: D Jones 69, 69; P Thom (Swe) 72, 66; S Henderson 70, 66; A Saddington 68, 72; C Bovet (Switz) 70, 68. 140: P Lyons 70, 70; J Cotoia (Fr) 71, 69. 141: *P Nelson 67, 74. 142: I Young 69, 73; S Hurd 73, 69; I Feliu (Sp) 71, 71. Emporda (par 71): 133: R Russell 68, 65. 134: R Drysdale 65, 69, 135: M Angier (Swe) 68, 67. 137: *D Howell 69, 68. 139: *S Gallacher 72, 67; M Krantz (Swe) 70, 69; G Owen 69, 70. 140: J Cook 71, 69; *B Dredge 70, 70; A Tillman 70, 70; N Graves 67, 73; C Stromberg (Swe) 72, 68. St Cyprien (par 73). 140: L Bachelor 71, 69; S Edwards 72, 68; J Dahlstrom (Fr) 68, 72; D Roy 72, 68. 141: F Regard (Fr) 71, 70; S Lahaye (Fr) 71, 70. 142: P Hennigton 71, 71; 143: C Dutan (Switz) 70, 73, M Basse (Fr) 69, 74, E Galardi (Fr) 70, 73, M Girouard (Can) 72, 71, B Tellerie (Fr) 70, 73

Pals (par 73). 139: A Raitt 71, 68; A Sandywell 71, 68. 140: *S Webster 72, 68; J Romero (Sp) 72, 68. D Phillips (US) 70, 70; *M Wheelhouse (NZ) 70, 70. 143: A Saavedra (Arg) 73, 70; T Nielsen (Nor) 69, 74; J Rozadilla (Sp) 70, 73; T Trodd 73, 70

* denotes an amateur

TREVOSE: Open Pairs: Leaders after two rounds: 127: R Boxall and M Penny. 130: W Riley and J Graham. 133: G Alliss and M Pewley. 135: M Evans and I Wilson. 137: T Hilton and A Webber, N Gammon and M Duffy; S Hopkins and I Parsons; M McLean and T Whyatt; D Masters and D Williams.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Mansfield 2 Bedworth 1; Wivenhoe 3 Hitchin 2; Sutton Utd 4 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Carshalton 2 Banstead 4; Enfield 2 Harefield 2.

HOCKEY

RAWALPINDI: Three-nation tournament: Pakistan 2 South Korea 2.

MADRID: Women's International: Spain 2 Great Britain 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 4 Edmonton 1; Colorado 4 Washington 2; Vancouver 5 Anaheim 1; Los Angeles 1 Philadelphia 1 (OT).

MOTOR RALLYING

HONG KONG-PEKING RALLY (positions after sixth day): 1, K Eriksson (Swe) Mitsubishi 4hr 31min 32sec; 2, A Vatanen (Fin) Mitsubishi 4:32:27; 3, R Burns (GB) Subaru 4:35:21; 4, P Bourne (NZ) Subaru 4:36:23; 5, Y Fujimoto (Japan) Toyota 4:46:14.

REAL TENNIS

FONTAINBLEAU: French Open championship: First round: (GB unless stated): C Bray bt D Jones 6-0; 6-2, 6-4; J Howell bt M Ryan 6-1, 6-0, 6-0; M Gooding bt A Other 6-1, 6-2, 6-5; F Filippelli (Aus) w o M Eadie scr.

RUGBY LEAGUE

HALIFAX: Emerging Nations World Cup: Group one: Cook Islands 68 Russia 20; Scotland 38 United States 16. Group two: Morocco 19 Moldova 24.

CLUB MATCH: Pontypool 35 Swansea 21.

SNOOKER

SUNDERLAND: Skoda Grand Prix: First round (England, unless stated): M Flowerdew bt D Reynolds 5-3; M Duffy (N Ire) bt R O'Sullivan 5-2; A Hamilton bt S Chong (Malay) 5-3; D O'Kane (NZ) bt L Griffin 5-1; D Morgan (Wales) bt S O'Connor (Ire) 5-4, Second round: J White bt M Clark 5-3; M Stevens (Wales) bt J Johnson 5-1; A Robidoux (Can) bt N Bond 5-2; S James bt D Pinbow 5-0; J Wattana (Thai) bt W Thorne 5-4; A McManus (Scot) bt A Cairns 5-1; J Prince (N Ire) bt S Newbury (Wales) 5-3

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Arena Essex: 51 Poole 45.

HULL: Northern Junior Riders Championship: 1, A Compton (Hull) 13; 2, G Martin, Barwick) 11; 3, W Beveridge (Sheffield) 10.

TENNIS

BRIGHTON: International tournament: Second round: H Sukova (Cz) bt C Wood (GB) 6-2, 7-6; B Paulus (Austria) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 7-6, 6-4.

LYON: Men: First round: Second round: C Pioline (Fr) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; T Martin (US) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; D Prinosil (Ger) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 6-1, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt H Holm (Swe) 7-5, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-7, 6-3, 6-1.

VIENNA: Men's tournament: First round: T Muster (Austria) bt M Washington (US) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; F Dewulf (Bel) bt D Wheaton (US) 6-2, 6-3; J Taranga (US) bt J Kroslak (Slovakia) 6-4, 7-5. Second round A Volkov (Russ) bt A Volnes (Rom) 6-7, 6-4, 7-6; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt M Orcinuska (SA) 6-4, 6-4; O Ogorodov (Uzb) bt P-Kushnikin (Ger) 6-4, 6-3.

PEKING: Men's tournament: Second round: R Furlan (It) bt T Henman (GB) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt D Norman (Bel) 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; D Nainkin (SA) bt M Pashley (GB) 7-6, 7-5; L Pass (Ind) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-3, 6-2. Third round: S Draper (Aus) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; S Matsuoka (Japan) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 7-6.

RACING

Going: good to soft

Newbury

2.05 (7f) 1, Barrel Of Hope (D Sweeney, 7-1 (j-3w), 2, Lynton Lad (25-1); 3, Chill Heights (7-1 j-fav); 4, Racing Telegraph (14-1) Jolto 7-1 j-fav. 27 ran. 1¼l, ¾l, J Eyre. Tote: £8.00; £1.80, £3.00, £1.80, £3.80. DF: £82.80. Trio: £339.00. CSF: £168.91. Tricast: £1,208.91.

2.40 (2m) 1, En Vacances (T Sprake, 16-1), 2, Istabraq (4-1); 3, Purple Splash (8-1); Greystoke Boy 7-2 fav 11 ran. Nk, 15l. A Foster. Tote: £12.80; £2.20, £2.00, £3.50. DF: £52.90. Trio: £371.20. CSF: £72.69. Tricast: £507.88.

3.10 (1f 6yd) 1, Tumbleweed Ridge (S Doyle, 7-2 j-fav); 2, Busy Flight (7-2 j-fav); 3, Brandon Magic (4-1). 9 ran. ¾l, nk. B Meehan. Tote: £3.60; £1.60, £1.60, £1.40 DF: £11.10. Trio: £10.00. CSF: £15.76.

3.40 (6f 8yd) 1, Domulla (D Griffiths, 33-1); 2, Spanjards Close (8-1); 3, Astrac (10-1); 4, Green Perfume (16-1). No Extras 7-2 fav. 16 ran. ¾l, nk, R Akehurst. Tote: £66.30; £9.50, £1.30, £2.30. £2.70. DF: £561.40. Trio: £1,134.70 (part won; pool of £465.46 carried forward to 2.40 at Newbury today). CSF: £245.81. Tricast: £2,547.30.

4.10 (6f 8yd) 1, Fly Tip (M Hills, 11-1); 2, Herodian (6-1); 3, Crazy Chief (3-1 fav). 20 ran. ¾l, nk. B Hills. Tote: £18.50; £3.40, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £69.30. Trio: £83.00. CSF: £75.97.

4.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Blitz Zamayem (R Perham, 9-1); 2, Main Offender (13-8 fav), 3, Quillwark (16-1). 13 ran. 3½l, 6l. B Hills. Tote: £9.90; £2.00, £1.30, £4.40. DF: £12.20. Trio: £49.90. CSF: £22.20.

5.10 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Jagellon (J Reid, 12-1), 2, Kings Assembly (20-1), 3, Our On A Promise (12-1); 4, Silver Groom (20-1). Dornapool 8-1 fav. 22 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. W Muir Tote: £15.10; £4.00, £4.30, £2.90, £4.10. DF: £133.30. Trio: £386.80. CSF: £222.58. Tricast: £2,715.47.

5.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Fealh (C Dwyer, 16-1); 2, Devon Peasant (2-1 fav); 3, Alnwhmen (7-1) 13 ran. Nk, 1½l. A Stewart. Tote: £18.70; £4.00, £1.40, £2.00. DF: £23.20. Trio: £78.30. CSF: £46.60.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £31,148.15 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £58.10. Quadpot: £27.80.

Nottingham

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.00 (5f 13yd) 1, Little Ibnr (K Fallon, 12-1); 2, Mouljeb (33-1); 3, Hickory Blue (12-1) Tinker Corneston 4-1 fav. 28 ran. Nk, ¾l. P Evans. Tote: £17.70; £5.40, £29.70, £5.10 DF: £1,151.90. Trio: £340.70. CSF: £355.86.

2.30 (2m 3yd) 1, Sea Victor (P Robinson, 11-2); 2, Supreme Star (9-1); 3, Coleridge (10-1); 4, Great Creation (14-1). Metamorius 4-1 fav. 20 ran. Sh hd, 1l. J E Hanlie. Tote: £5.50; £1.90, £4.50, £7.80, £4.60. DF: £54.60. Trio: not won; pool of £218.78 carried forward to 5.00 at Doncaster today). CSF: £57.61. Tricast: £463.10.

3.00 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, Bimsey (S Sanders, 13-8 fav); 2, Supd (20-1); 3, Cinecuss (33-1). 11 ran. 9l, 6l. R Akehurst. Tote: £2.20, £1.30, £2.00, £16.20. DF: £33.90 Trio: not won (pool of £146.79 carried forward to 5.00 at Doncaster today). CSF: £31.82.

3.30 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, Opera Ball (A Whelan, 6-1); 2, Pampas Breeze (8-4 fav); 3, College Night (16-1). 10 ran. 4l, 2½l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £8.00; £2.20, £2.10, £4.30. DF: £6.20. Trio: £63.90. CSF: £20.25.

4.00 (1m 54yd) 1, Distinyantor (W Ryan, 1-3 fav); 2, Altamura (7-1), 3, Fly Fishing (20-1). 19 ran. ¾l, 7l. H Cecil. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £1.40, £4.20. DF: £3.80. Trio: £27.60. CSF: £5.54.

4.30 (1m 54yd) 1, Gentle Irony (J F Egan, 12-1), 2, Kingsbip Boy (9-1); 3, High Pressure (6-4 fav). 19 ran. Nk. Rosella Lodge. 1l, sh hd, B Meehan. Tote: £18.40; £3.60, £2.50, £1.70. DF: £89.40. Trio: £56.50. CSF: £110.93. Kingsbip Boy finished first, but after stewards' inquiry was disqualified and placed second.

5.00 (1m 54yd) 1, Gemba Gemba (W Woods, 10-1); 2, Mister Fire Eyes (25-1); 3, Ocean Park (5-1); 4, Robsera (8-1). Benitoo 4-1 fav. 20 ran. Nk, 1l. A Hide. Tote: £15.20; £4.00, £7.40, £2.20, £2.80. DF: £210.10. Trio: not won; (pool of £403.62 carried forward to 5.00 at Doncaster today). CSF: £246.07. Tricast: £1,317.69.

5.30 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Rose Of Shirle (M Fenton, 5-2 fav); 2, Northern Spirit (4-1); 3, Not Quite Grey (9-2). 14 ran. 1¼l, sh hd. M Bell. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £1.60, £2.40. DF: £6.70. Trio: £49.40. CSF: £16.61.

Placepot: £189.30. Quadpot: £19.50.

Hereford

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Supreme Music (A P McCoy, 9-2); 2, Bow Seller (5-1); 3, Burpee Jumper (2-1 fav). 6 ran. 30l, dh hd. Tote: £5.10; £2.10, £1.20. DF: £11.10. CSF: £23.61.

2.50 (2m 3f ch) 1, Polden Pride (A P McCoy, 11-10 fav); 2, Zaire (15-8); 3, On The Tear (50-1). 6 ran. Nk, 20l. G Balding. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.20. DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.68.

3.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Poetic Fancy (C Llewellyn, 4-1 fav); 2, George Lane (6-1); 3, Swiss Mountain (16-1); 4, Al Skeet (7-1). 17 ran. 1¼l, 5l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £4.80; £1.90, £1.60, £2.40, £3.20. DF: £23.70. Trio: £104.80. CSF: £30.82. Tricast: £175.04.

3.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, Flir Senior (T Murphy, 9-2); 2, Desert Run (7-2); 3, Kiveson Tycoon (6-4 fav). 6 ran. Sh hd, 20l. K Bailey. Tote: £4.80; £2.00, £2.60. DF: £9.90. CSF: £19.68.

4.20 (2m ch) 1, Reve Em Rose (J R Kavanagh, 11-4); 2, Captain Khadive (2-1 fav); 3, Hasham Tam (14-1). 4 ran. Nk, dist. M McMillan. Tote: £3.20. DF: £1.20. CSF: £4.02.

4.50 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Shepherd Lady (W McFarland, 9-4); 2, Alnerton Green (2-1 fav); 3, Exploiter Edition (8-1 j-fav). 5 ran. 10l, 11l. J Moore. Tote: £3.70; £1.70, £1.50. DF: £2.20. CSF: £7.25.

Placepot: £231.90. Quadpot: £122.90.

THE TIMES RACING Commentary Call 0891 500 123 Results Call 0891 100 123 Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Meehan has classic faith in Tumbleweed Ridge

BY OUR RACING STAFF

BRIAN MEEHAN reached the most significant milestone of his training career when he saddled Tumbleweed Ridge to land his first group victory at Newbury yesterday.

The Lambourn trainer capped what is already his most successful season after just three years in charge of his own string when the Indian Ridge colt captured the group three Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes.

Back in 1989, Meehan was working as assistant trainer to Richard Hannon when Tirol triumphed in this 7½-furlong race before going on to claim the 2,000 Guineas the following season.

Having rapidly established himself, Meehan is pursuing his own classic dream with Tumbleweed Ridge. The colt's odds were cut to 40-1 for the 1996 classic by William Hill after he had accounted for Busy Flight by half a length with Brandon Magic a neck away third.

"It's been a fantastic year and this is very exciting," said Meehan, who is holding each-way vouchers about his colt at 100-1 and 66-1. Meehan added: "Tumbleweed Ridge had a hard race when he was second to Royal Applause in the Gimcrack and he was a gallop short when he ran at Newmarket last time. Provided everything goes smoothly, he will be a Guineas horse next year and we will bring him back for a prep race in the spring."

Meehan, who has saddled 42 winners this season, has already invested in future talent, paying 28,000 guineas for Tumbleweed Ridge's half-sister at last week's Newmarket Houghton sales.

Reg Akehurst equalled his best total, achieved last year, when Domulla followed up Birnsey's success at Nottingham with a three-length victory in the Gardner Merchant Handicap.

The Epsom trainer had been without a Flat win for six weeks, but he returned to form when his 33-1 chance, who paid £65.20 on the Tote, stormed clear of Spaniards Close with his better-fancied stable companion, Astrac, third.

"I don't like running two in one race and running a horse that is out of the handicap is worse still. But Domulla needs soft ground and there was nowhere else to run," Akehurst said. "The horses have just had niggly problems and when the weather turns it is a difficult time for training."

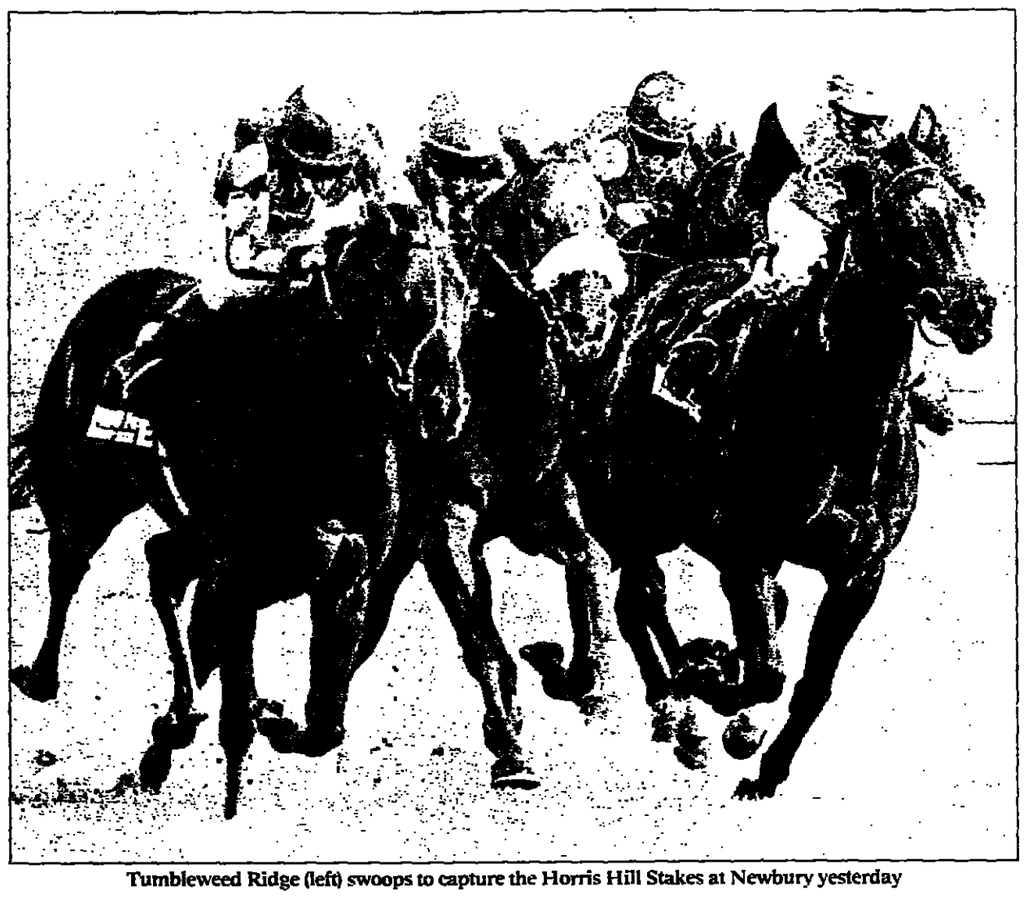
While Akehurst has struggled, Barry Hills has been in irresistible form and he secured another double when Fly Tip made a winning debut and the highly tried Bint Zamayem finally got off the mark. Fly Tip, who only joined Hills two weeks ago after her owner, David McDowell, took the filly away from Karl Burke, beat Herodian in the Theale Maiden Stakes.

Henry Cecil has often used Nottingham to introduce some of his well-regarded juveniles and word from Newmarket was that Dushyantor, a son of Sadler's Wells, fell into that category.

With Pat Eddery suspended, Willie Ryan was given the ride. But those backers prepared to lay the odds were made to sweat for their money. Showing signs of greenness, the 3-1 on shot was given time to settle by Ryan.

Picking up ground once in line for home, the favourite appeared to be caught flat-footed as Altamura made a determined dash over two furlongs out. However, rallying strongly, Dushyantor was able to strike the front well inside the distance to win by three-quarters of a length.

The winning trainer said: "He ran very well, but he's still green and didn't appear to break well either. Let's hope he will make it to Epsom as I'd like to think he's a group horse in the making."



Tumbleweed Ridge (left) swoops to capture the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury yesterday

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.05 Jathlib
2.40 Executive Design
3.10 Buckboard Bounce
3.40 Stompin
4.10 General Command
4.40 Sweet Mignonette
5.10 Toska

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO FIRM (HURDLES) SIS

2.05 OCTOBER HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,958: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 10461-2 MOVING OUT 30 (F,6,S) (Mrs S Bradley) Miss H Knight 7-11-10 Mr J Dalley (7) 84
2 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT 22 (BF,F,S) (Mrs C Fenwick) C Mann 4-11-9 R Dunwoody 98
3 2313350- LANSDOWNE 197 (D,S) (R Denmead) G Ham 7-11-4 A P McCoy 93
4 011-132 JATHIB 22 (D,F,S) (Horses For Courses Racing Club) Q Nicholls 4-11-2 A Maguire 93
5 450411- GREAT MARQUESS 119F (6,S) (Sir Marquess Pincs) N Tinkler-Davies 8-11-2 C Llewellyn 88

BETTING: 7-4 Great Marquess, 5-2 Moving Out, 7-2 Clifton Set, Jathlib, 12-1 Lansdowne.

1994: BADASTAN 5-10-6 Peter Hobbs (9-2) P Hobbs 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOVING OUT 2l 2nd to Prospered Guest in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good). LANSDOWNE 41/4l 5th to Miracle Man in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, soft). JATHIB 1l 2nd to Hurricane Blake in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft) with CLIFTON BEAT 20l behind in 4th. GREAT MARQUESS 1l 3rd of 5 to Dublin Flyer in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 6f, good) with BIRENDUM (4lb worse off) in touch when fell 5 out. BIBENDUM beat Strath Royal 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 4f, good to soft) on February MULBANK 42l 9th of 14 to Bradbury Star in Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with SOUTHOLT (13lb worse off) pulled up after 3 out. SEVEN OF DIAMONDS 16l 2nd of 4 to Dark Oak in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Selection: SOUTHOLT

2.40 FALCON CATERING EQUIPMENT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £3,646: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) BBC2

121 ALLTIME DANCER 17 (F,S) (H Fitzgerald) D Sherwood 11-8 J Osborne –
142113 AMLAH 6 (BF,F) (S Gamsby) P Hobbs 11-8 Peter Hobbs –
314 YACHT 41 (F) (C Mogford) C Mann 11-8 R Dunwoody –
172 WOODRISING 29 (D,BF,S) (The Blue Chip Group) C Egerton 11-3 A Maguire –
- EURO FORUM 14F (Sts Fonyas Ltd) G L Moore 11-0 M A Fitzgerald –
- EXECUTIVE DESIGN 27F (H Rowland) Mrs M Reveley 11-0 P Niven –
P FESTY BOSS 41 (VF) J Gallagher M Tebbutt-Davies 11-0 C Llewellyn –
- HAYA YA KEFAAH 246F (A Chadowsky N Bastenge 11-0 W Hazelgrove –
- IRON N GOLD 36F (A Family Affair Partnership) A Moore 11-0 B Powell –
- SIRIUS 137F (Star Racing) C Weedon 11-0 M Perrett –
- TOSKANO 22F (Berkshire Commercial Components Ltd) Q Williams 11-0 A P McCoy –
- WATER-HARVARD 19F (Mobil Secondus Racing Club) S Dow 11-0 M Richards –
D HARD LOVE 8-(A All) S Woods 10-9 P Niven –
- SHADY DEED 24F (Wyck Hall Stud) J Hills 10-9 G Bradley –

BETTING: 3-1 Alltime Dancer, 9-2 Woodrising, 5-1 Amlah, 8-1 Yacht, Shady Deed, Executive Design, 12-1 others.

1994: KHATIR 11-8 R Dunwoody (109-30 fav) M Pipe 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALLTIME DANCER beat Tragic Hero 2l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good). AMLAH 7l 3rd of 15 to Volunteer in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) with HARD LOVE (2lb worse off) tailed off 11l. YACHT beat Dominion's Dream 2l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, firm). WOODRISING beat Elston 15l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start with YACHT (3lb better off) 10l(4) 4th and FESTY BOSS (1lb better off) tailed off when pulled up 2 out. EXECUTIVE DESIGN neck 2nd of 5 to Trad'n Tradition in handicap at Redcar (1m 6f, good) on latest Flat start. Selection: ALLTIME DANCER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Sherwood	18	66	27.2	R Dunwoody	38	143	26.5
D Nicholson	24	105	22.9	J Osborne	37	145	25.5
N Henderson	21	97	21.6	P Hobley	13	62	21.0
D Elsworth	13	61	21.3	P Niven	4	28	20.0
Mrs M. Reveley	4	19	21.1	S McNeill	9	54	16.7

2.40 FALCON CATERING EQUIPMENT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £3,646: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) BBC2

121 ALLTIME DANCER 17 (F,S) (H Fitzgerald) D Sherwood 11-8 J Osborne –
142113 AMLAH 6 (BF,F) (S Gamsby) P Hobbs 11-8 Peter Hobbs –
314 YACHT 41 (F) (C Mogford) C Mann 11-8 R Dunwoody –
172 WOODRISING 29 (D,BF,S) (The Blue Chip Group) C Egerton 11-3 A Maguire –
- EURO FORUM 14F (Sts Fonyas Ltd) G L Moore 11-0 M A Fitzgerald –
- EXECUTIVE DESIGN 27F (H Rowland) Mrs M Reveley 11-0 P Niven –
P FESTY BOSS 41 (VF) J Gallagher M Tebbutt-Davies 11-0 C Llewellyn –
- HAYA YA KEFAAH 246F (A Chadowsky N Bastenge 11-0 W Hazelgrove –
- IRON N GOLD 36F (A Family Affair Partnership) A Moore 11-0 B Powell –
- SIRIUS 137F (Star Racing) C Weedon 11-0 M Perrett –
- TOSKANO 22F (Berkshire Commercial Components Ltd) Q Williams 11-0 A P McCoy –
- WATER-HARVARD 19F (Mobil Secondus Racing Club) S Dow 11-0 M Richards –
D HARD LOVE 8-(A All) S Woods 10-9 P Niven –
- SHADY DEED 24F (Wyck Hall Stud) J Hills 10-9 G Bradley –

BETTING: 3-1 Alltime Dancer, 9-2 Woodrising, 5-1 Amlah, 8-1 Yacht, Shady Deed, Executive Design, 12-1 others.

1994: KHATIR 11-8 R Dunwoody (109-30 fav) M Pipe 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALLTIME DANCER beat Tragic Hero 2l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good). AMLAH 7l 3rd of 15 to Volunteer in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) with HARD LOVE (2lb worse off) tailed off 11l. YACHT beat Dominion's Dream 2l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, firm). WOODRISING beat Elston 15l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start with YACHT (3lb better off) 10l(4) 4th and FESTY BOSS (1lb better off) tailed off when pulled up 2 out. EXECUTIVE DESIGN neck 2nd of 5 to Trad'n Tradition in handicap at Redcar (1m 6f, good) on latest Flat start. Selection: ALLTIME DANCER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Sherwood	18	66	27.2	R Dunwoody	38	143	26.5
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N Henderson	21	97	21.6	P Hobley	13	62	21.0
D Elsworth	13	61	21.3	P Niven	4	28	20.0
Mrs M. Reveley	4	19	21.1	S McNeill	9	54	16.7

3.10 GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£7,249: 2m 4f) (6 runners) BBC2

1 653/2P- ANTONIN 174 (C,F,G,S) (G Bailey Ltd) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-10 G Bradley 92
2 212643- SOUTHOLT 174 (F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-11-7 D Murphy (5) 98
3 002252- BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 183 (D,G,S) (R Digweed) G Richards 9-10-13 P Carberry 96
4 F21165- BIBENDUM 167 (D,F,G,S) (R Wetherall) R Wakley-Cotton 9-10-8 Peter Hobbs 98
5 1121/JD- MULBANK 342 (D,F,G,S) D Shaw P Hobbs 9-10-6 C Maude 93
6 3P2112- SEVEN OF DIAMONDS 182 (CD,F,G,S) (T Kaspray) R Allen 10-10-0 A Maguire 92

Long handicap: Seven Of Diamonds 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Seven Of Diamonds, 3-1 Buckboard Bounce, 7-2 Mulbank, Southolt, 5-1 Bibendum, 14-1 Antonin.

1994: KINGS FOUNTAIN 11-12-0 M Williamson (10-1) K Bailey 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANTONIN 9l 2nd of 16 in Rough Quest in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft) in March. SOUTHOLT 10l(4) 3rd of 5 to Coolfin in conditions chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 2l 2nd of 10 in Lock Seaway in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 2f 110yd, good). Previously 22l 5th of 25 to Dublin Flyer in handicap chase at Aintree (2m 6f, good) with BIRENDUM (4lb worse off) in touch when fell 5 out. BIBENDUM beat Strath Royal 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 4f, good to soft) on February MULBANK 42l 9th of 14 to Bradbury Star in Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with SOUTHOLT (13lb worse off) pulled up after 3 out. SEVEN OF DIAMONDS 16l 2nd of 4 to Dark Oak in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Selection: SOUTHOLT

3.40 FLAVEL-LEISURE FOUR YEAR OLD HURDLE (£5,030: 2m 110yd) (8 runners) BBC2

1 71012- STOMPIN 176 (D,S,S) (The Voice Group Ltd) Miss H Knight 11-7 J Osborne (5) –
2 11104- BALANAK 167 (D,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 11-3 M Dwyer 97
3 21522-3 CLIFTON BEAT 20 (CD,S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 11-3 B McCourt 98
4 40P106- NASHVILLE STAR 167 (V,CD,F,S) (R Mathew) R Mathew 11-3 M A Fitzgerald 68
5 000- KENTAVRUS WAY 45F (F Hill) A Moore 11-0 B Powell –
6 0P5-1 STRONG PROMISE 16 (D,F) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 11-0 A P McCoy 65
7 006171- SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 139 (D,F,S) (N T Racing Syndicate) D Williams 11-0 M Clarke 71
8 1 WISHING 22 (D,F) (A Spence) R Akehurst 11-0 R Dunwoody 73

BETTING: 9-4 Balanak, 3-2 Stompin, 3-1 Wishing, 6-1 Clifton Beat, 10-1 Strong Promise, Symbol Of Success, 14-1 others.

1994: DARK DEN 10-3 T Kent (8-11 fav) Mrs J Cecil 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

STOMPIN 3l 2nd of 20 to Shaitor in grade I Champion Four Year Old Hurdle at Punchestown (2m, good) with NASHVILLE STAR (4lb better off) 19l 11th. BALANAK 5l(4) 4th of 15 to Sweet Mignonette in grade II Seagram Top Novices' Hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) CLIFTON BEAT 5l(4) 3rd of 10 to Romance in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good) NASHVILLE STAR beat Plunder Bay 6l in 10-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) in March. STRONG PROMISE beat Slingsby 3l(4) to 6-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). SYMBOL OF SUCCESS beat Blair Castle 11l(4) in 5-runner novice handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good). WISHING beat Robert's Toy 3l(4) in 7-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Selection: BALANAK (nap)

4.10 LEISURE PREMIER PARTNERSHIP NOVICES CHASE (£3,496: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

1 100P-1 GENERAL COMMAND 30 (G) (R Ogden) S Richards 7-11-9 P Carberry 83
2 111122 SIMPLY GEORGE 22 (D,F) (K Stungo) J White 6-11-9 A P McCoy 89
3 13P53/5 GRAND APPLAUSE 14F (G) (M Lewis) M Muggeridge 5-11-4 B Powell –
4 212-382 JUST ROSIE 16 (F,G) (Plough Racing) A Jones 5-11-0 S McNeill 88
5 2/4P000- SABEEL 204 (Peter Slip) T George 5-10-13 D Bentley –

BETTING: Even General Command, 5-4 Simply George, 7-1 Just Rosie, 16-1 Grand Applause, 50-1 Sabeel.

1994: SHAARD 8-11-0 J Osborne (5-5 fav) J Balding 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

GENERAL COMMAND beat Beatson 7l in 9-runner novice chase at Perth (2m, good). SIMPLY GEORGE 7l 2nd of 5 to Pridwell in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) GRAND APPLAUSE tailed off 6th of 7 to Classic Exhibit in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Subsequently ran on Flat at Ascot on 6 Oct. JUST ROSIE 8l 2nd of 7 to Hawaiian Youth in novice chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to firm). Selection: GENERAL COMMAND

4.40 SEVEN BARROWS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,389: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 151101- SQUIRE SILK 186 (D,F,G,S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-12-0 P Carberry 86
2 1110- SWEET MIGNONETTE 16F (D,G) (R Whitehead) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven 89
3 334-114 NADIJATI 22 (B,D,G) (T Whatley) D Gandolfo 6-10-4 M Dwyer 97
4 00/6F8- BOOKCASE 23F (CD,F,G) (Arden Lion D Elsworth 5-10-1 P Holley 90
5 1 JULIASDARKINVADER 361F (G) (A Moore) A Moore 5-10-0 B Powell –

Long handicap: Juliasdarkinvader 9-13.

BETTING: 6-4 Sweet Mignonette, 7-4 Square Silk, 9-2 Nadijati, 6-1 Bookcase, 16-1 Juliasdarkinvader.

1994: ATTOURS 6-10-9 P Holley (100-30) D Elsworth 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SQUIRE SILK beat Tarrouted 14l in 22-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 4f, good to firm). SWEET MIGNONETTE beat Shankar 3l(4) in grade II Seagram Top Novices' Hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. NADIJATI beat Nobbly neck in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. BOOKCASE 29l 6th of 12 to Jarz in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). JULIASDARKINVADER beat Bayrak 30l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good). Selection: SWEET MIGNONETTE

5.10 NEWBURY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,982: 2m 110yd) (25 runners)

1 10/ THE BOUNDER 548 (F) (B Stewart-Brown) D Sherwood 5-11-11 Mr J Durkan –
2 1-4 SINGLE SOURCING 14 (F) (V Adams) Miss H Knight 4-11-10 G Ryan (5) –
3 COXWELL STEPTOE (M Allsopp) Miss H Knight 5-11-4 Mr J Cullimy (7) –
4 0- IF ONLY 167 (R Hall) R Hollinshead 5-11-4 M Martin (7) –
5 JET BOYS (Jet Stationery Company Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 S Knott (7) –
6 JUST ALBERT (A Mintes) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 Mr M McGrath (7) –
7 8- MAN OF WISLEY 245 (Wisley Golf Partnership) N Henderson 5-11-4 Mr C Vigors (7) –
8 MULCIBER DREAM TWO (H McCall) G Balding 5-11-4 R Arnold (7) –
9 MY SON TOM (Prestige Racing Management Ltd) J Long 5-11-4 C Rae (7) –
10 NICKY WILDE (A Brodin) C Brooks 5-11-4 Mr E James –
11 0/ PAULA'S BOY 311 (D) Eltsworth 5-11-4 A Procter (3) –
12 SILENT GUNS (Lord Clinton) C Egerton 5-11-4 Mr R Johnson (5) –
13 SOLO VOLUMES (Mr M Green) H Rowsell 5-11-4 Mr M Rimell (7) –
14 SUS CAT (Mrs J Coleman) P Butler 5-11-4 R Massey (5) –
15 ANDANTO (Bonsgrand) Lady Herries 4-11-3 Mr P Pritchard-Gordon (7) –
16 HOODED HAWK (Exors of Mrs L Davies) N Henderson 4-11-3 M Lane (7) –
17 MASSANA PARK (L Smith) L Smith 4-11-3 Mr P Henley (7) –
18 NDABA (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-3 D Walsh (5) –
19 SAXON DUKE (Saxon Duke Partnership) P Hobbs 4-11-3 G Tormey (3) –
20 23 TOSKI 14 (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 4-11-3 G Lee (3) –
21 MISS SILLA SULA (J Brookhouse) D Nicholson 4-10-13 A Lamach (3) –
22 PEPTIC LADY (Dr D Sale) S Dow 5-10-13 Mr T McCarthy –
23 CHINA ROSE (Mrs T Mamm) S Woodman 4-10-12 F Perratt (3) –
24 MAENAD (Exors of Mrs C Robinson) D French Davis 4-10-12 J Magee (3) –
25 NICK THE GOLD (Mrs E Kiernan) S Moore 4-10-12 Mrs A Perrett –

BETTING: 5-1 Toski, 5-1 Hooded Hawk, 8-1 Single Sourcing, 12-1 Coxwell Steptoe, The Bounder, Man Of Wisley, 14-1 others.

1994: SEXTON BREY 5-11-0 G McCourt (6-1) P Hobbs 25 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE BOUNDER beat Coumeen Boy 5l in 14-runner National Hunt Flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. SINGLE SOURCING beat Bracey Ran 11l(4) in National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). IF ONLY 44l 7th of 16 to Uncle Admer in National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). NDABA half-brother by Mtoto to winning hurdler Cabochon. TOSKI 2l 3rd of 18 to Mandys Mardino in National Hunt Flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) with SINGLE SOURCING 9l 4th. Selection: TOSKI

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Backhouse) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number 5m-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F B Bat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider (pips are allowance). The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Wishing to keep unbeaten record

NEWBURY

BBC2

2.40: Amlah appears to be the best of those with experience, having beaten Woodrising by a comfortable nine lengths at Taunton last month. Woodrising had earlier beaten Alltime Dancer (6lb better off) by three lengths, which would appear to give Amlah the best chance of the trio. However, he has since had his limitations exposed at Kempton and one of the newcomers may prove too sharp.

Executive Design was the best of these on the Flat and is sure to have been well schooled by Mary Reveley for his hurdling debut. Shady Deed has ability, but is a free-running miler on the level and unlikely to stay.

3.10: Southolt will be the subject of much interest given that he is Declan Murphy's first ride over fences since his comeback, and, with his stable in good form, should give a good account. However, he failed to register a win last season, and is likely to have to settle for minor honours again. Bibendum may prefer cut in the ground, while Antonin is best over further.

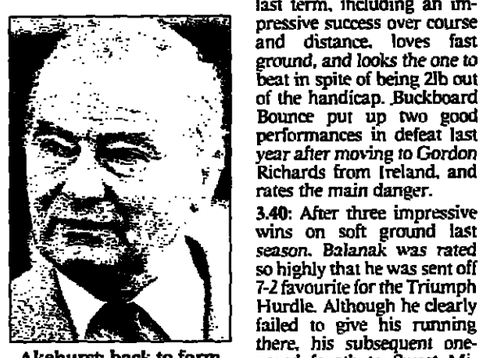
Seven Of Diamonds showed progressive form last term, including an impressive success over course and distance, loves fast ground, and looks the one to beat in spite of being 2lb out of the handicap. Buckboard Bounce put up two good performances in defeat last year after moving to Gordon Richards from Ireland, and rates the main danger.

3.40: After three impressive wins on soft ground last season, Balanak was rated so highly that he was sent off 7-2 favourite for the Triumph Hurdle. Although he clearly failed to give his running there, his subsequent one-paced fourth to Sweet Mignonette at Aintree is probably as good as he is, and he may be found wanting for pace here.

Wishing, a useful handicapper on the Flat, made a promising winning debut over hurdles at Cheltenham. Reg Akehurst had been suffering a quiet spell until landing a double yesterday, and can continue the good work here. Clifton Beat was not disgraced when third under top weight on his reappearance at Chepstow, and looks best of the remainder.

ROBERT WRIGHT

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION



Akehurst: back to form

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER

2.20 Wordsmith. 2.50 Dennington. 3.20 Nobley. 3.50 Bures. 4.20 Cantoris Frater. 4.50 Bushehr. 5.20 Acquittal.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.20 WALSINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,720: 2m) (10 runners)

1 69-4 LONE RISK 13 (S) C Allen 4-11-10 D Gallagher –
2 31F- SALISONS 298 (D,S,S) J Wade 6-11-4 J R Kavanagh –
3 05F WORDSMITH 37F (S) J L Harris 5-11-1 P McLoughlin (3) –
4 4-U5 LUCY TUFTY 18 (S) J Pearce 4-10-13 M Brennan –
5 3330 LORCANJO 8 (CD,S) D Carey 4-10-13 G Supple (7) –
6 00-3 WATER DIVINER 13 (CD,F,S) K Musgrave 5-10-10 J Ryan –
7 4321 GREEN'S SEASO 13 (D,F,S) J A Harris 7-10-9 T Dascombe (7) –
8 52/ SANDRO 503 (D,F,S,S) Miss L Bower 6-10-8 L Harvey –
9 52PP WORDYS WAR 35 L Wordingham 4-10-2 R Farrant –
10 6334 YEOMAN BOUND 3 J Jenkins 7-10-0 D Fortune (7) –

11-4 Lone Risk, 4-1 Lucy Tufty, Green's Seaso, 6-1 Salisons, 8-1 others.

2.50 PUDDING NORTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,007: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 2I-1 THE BUD CLUB 13 (S) K Bailey 7-11-10 T J Murphy –
2 UI5- FELIX MA HINSE 211 (CD,S) R Champion 12-11-4 B Fenton (5) –
3 1346 MAGSOOD 13 (V,C,F,S) J Mullins 10-11-0 S Carroll –
4 322- MISS FERN 153 (D,F,S,S) R Dickin 10-10-3 D Leahy –
5 522- DENNINGTON 186 (S) G Hubbard 7-10-2 K Earle –
6 /P-P INTO THE MYSTIC 11 (F,S) S Coathup 13-10-0 M Brown (7) –

Evens The Bud Club, 7-2 Dennington, 4-1 Miss Fern, 6-1 Magsood, 16-1 others.

3.20 WIMPEY HOMES NOVICES CHASE (£3,372: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 -212 NOBLEY B (D,F,S,S) N Walker 8-11-7 J Railton –
2 -F21 LAKE OF LOUGHREA 7 (F,S) K Bailey 5-11-6 T J Murphy (5) –
3 2-12 PRIDWELL 14 (D,BF,F,S,S) M Pipe 5-11-6 D Bridgwater –
4 F5-3 AEDEANI 36 (S) G Enright 6-11-0 J R Kavanagh –
5 2FR- MAGELLAN BAY 204 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 W Marston –
6 15-2 SALAMAH 16 (F,S) Mrs V Wood 9-11-0 R Davis –
7 U81- SEOD RIOSA 176 (S,S) S Mellor 6-11-0 Chris Webb (5) –
8 SULA KING 568P K Musgrave 8-11-0 J Ryan –

9-4 Pridwell, 11-4 Lake Of Loughrea, 4-1 Seod Riosa, 9-2 Nobley, 8-1 others.

3.50 MICHAEL SCOTNEY TURF ACCOUNTANT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,022: 2m) (4)

1 101F HAVE A NIGHTCAP 18 (B,D,S) M Llanrodon 5-11-11 D Bridgwater –
2 112- BURES 135F (V,F) M Tompkins 4-11-10 D Gallagher –
3 2/3 ERUKINS 27 (D,S) S Mellor 5-10-10 Chris Webb (5) –
4 0-11 FERRUFINO 15 (D,F) P Rich 7-10-9 W Marston –

7-4 Have A Nightcap, 2-1 Bures, 3-1 Ferrufino, 4-1 Erikins.

4.20 WEST NORFOLK FUELS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,031: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 3/2- CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 417 (F,S) D McCain 9-12-0 D McCain –
2 1062 LEVAN 6 (F,S,S) M Ahern 8-12-0 M Ahern –
3 63R5 JIMMY O'DEA 6 (D,F) T Bill 8-11-12 J Railton –
4 -122 CANTORIS FRATER 19 (F) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-3 W Marston –
5 /0-0 MASTER COMEDY 18 (B,F,S) Miss L Bower 11-11-2 D Gallagher –
6 4P92 POPPETS PET 87 (V,F,S) J Mullins 8-11-0 S Curran (3) –
7 0-U3 LODESTONE LAD 27 B Dickin 5-10-8 D Marsden –
8 P-00 CARDINAL RALPH 128 (D,S,S) Miss A Embiricos 11-10-5 J Ryan –
9 /P-P SOUNDS GOLDEN 16 J Whyte 7-10-0 J R Kavanagh –

2-1 Cantoris Frater, 7-2 Ahern, 9-2 Lodestone Lad, 5-1 Poppets Pet, 6-1 Crafty Chaplain, 14-1 Jimmy O'Dea, 16-1 others.

4.50 LITTLE SNORING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,552: 2m) (9)

1 2111- DOMINION'S DREAM 8 (V,D,F,S,S) M Pipe 11-5 D Bridgwater –
2 3- BUSHER 14 S Coathup 10-12 W Marston –
3 4 BARNABY WILLOW 36 M Rose 10-9 J Ryan –
4 BASIL STREET 17 C Mann 10-9 J Railton –
5 F GOLT O'DR 39 J White 10-9 P McLoughlin (3) –
6 GOOD 23F D Thom 10-9 M Brennan –
7 230 WANSTEAD 46 J Jenkins 10-9 J F Titley –
8 FEN TERRIER 23F W Higgins 10-7 T Jenks –
9 LADY WOODSTOCK 55F Miss A Embiricos 10-4 J R Kavanagh –

6-4 Dominion's Dream, 7-2 Busher, 5-1 Fen Terrier, 6-1 Colt O'Dr, Wanstead, 8-1 Basil Street, 20-1 Good, 25-1 others.

5.20 LITTLE SNORING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,545: 2m) (8)

1 ACQUITTAL 43F J Fanshawe 10-12 W Marston –
2 05- KINGS VISION 14 B Robinson 10-12 R Supple –
3 CALL ME FLASH 126F Miss P Sly 10-9 R Massey –
4 4 COURT NAP 13 S Mellor 10-9 M Moran –
5 GOLDWYN B Jones 10-9 V Smith –
6 KIND PRINCE 39W S Harris 10-9 M Brennan –
7 HATCH MY LIPS 37F M Tompkins 10-9 D Gallagher –
8 AL CORROCHE 117F K Cunningham-Brown 10-7 J R Kavanagh –

5-2 Court Nap, 3-1 Acquittal, 7-2 Hatch My Lips, 4-1 Al Corroche, 8-1 Kings Vision, 12-1 Goldwyn, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 6 winners from 19 runners, 31.6%, J Jenkins, 7 from 22, 31.8%, M Ryan, 3 from 18, 16.8%, M Tompkins, 3 from 22, 13.6%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: M Brennan, 8 winners from 30 rides, 26.7%, R Farrant, 3 from 15, 20.0%, D Bridgwater, 3 from 20, 15.0%, J Ryan, 4 from 28, 14.3%. Only qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.00 Sinking Sun. 4.30 Desert Water.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Tarneem. 2.30 Green Land. 3.00 Annecy. 3.30 Old Rouvel. 4.00 CRYSTAL FALLS (nap). 4.30 Dowsong. 5.00 Nordic Doll.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 TARNEEM.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Tarneem. 3.00 Annecy. 4.00 EXALTED (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: 7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CISWO MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,361: 7f) (22 runners)

101 (18) 0 BASHTHEBOARDS 19 J Dohm 9-0 S D Williams –
102 (7) 0 BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 9 W Haigh 9-0 Dale Gibson –
103 (13) 6 FOREIGN JUDGEMENT 23 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J Reid 83
104 (1) 4342 FOREST ROBIN 17 R Johnson Houghton 9-0 A McGlone 85
105 (5) 4 FOURDAMED 17 P Harris 9-0 G Hind 79
106 (3) 0 GERMAUND 22 G Wragg 9-0 M Hills 75
107 (21) 0 GYMPIE 139 J Gosden 9-0 J Carroll –
108 (10) HAWKSLEY HILL Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 K Fallon –
109 (6) HIGHFIELD PET M Johnston 9-0 J Weaver –
110 (4) 3 INSYAAH 14 J Dunlop 9-0 W Carson 83
111 (16) 60 KENILWORTH DANCER 23 Mrs M Reveley 9-0 K Darley –
112 (9) 6 MANOV 15 J Hetherton 9-0 N Kennedy –
113 (6) MELT THE CLOUDS P Harris 9-0 G Duffield –
114 (2) MILFORD SOUND J Fanshawe 9-0 D Harrison –
115 (20) 65 SILENT GUEST 9 M Prescott 9-0 C Rutter 65
116 (11) 0 VILLAGE KING 6 R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill (5) 78
117 (16) WINDYEDGE B Hills 9-0 R Street –
118 (4) DANAWAN E Dunlop 8-9 R Hills –
119 (17) 00 DONA FILIPA 23 Miss L Siddall 8-9 D McKeown –
120 (14) 52 TARREEM 27 M Stoute 8-9 W R Swinburn 89
121 (15) 0 TINTARA 22 B

Supporters quick to return attention to domestic matters

Rangers rue lack of Continental panache

By Kevin McCarra

RANGERS supporters, for their own safety, were detained for 15 minutes at the Stadio delle Alpi on Wednesday after Juventus' 4-1 victory in the European Cup Champions' League match. They passed the time by singing of their conviction that the club will, in 1998, win a tenth successive Scottish League championship and eclipse Celtic's record.

The desire to celebrate Rangers at such a moment demonstrated resilience, but also spoke of the comforts of parochialism. The club's followers seemed close to accepting that European football is beyond their team. The defeat had been as great an embarrassment for Rangers as anyone, at short notice, could recall. Juventus scored four times, but, had half a dozen been required, they would have got them with ease.

In three Champions' League fixtures, Rangers have recorded two defeats and a draw. Only the fact that Blackburn Rovers are pointless in the same competition preserves, in British terms, some self-respect. Yesterday, Walter Smith, the manager, calculated that Rangers need to beat Juventus at Ibrox in two weeks' time if they are to have any hope of qualifying from group C as runners-up.

Smith's arithmetic may be impeccable, but there is no reason to accept that his side is capable of such a result. Football is sustained by the myth of progress and Rangers have always believed that their substantial investment, year by year, was carrying them towards the forefront of European football. To a club such as Juventus, however, they remain only a smudge on the horizon.

Marcello Lippi, the coach of the Italian champions, remarked that the match had turned out much as he expected. No insult was intended; he simply offered an honest account of the side's differing capabilities. With three goals in the first 23 minutes, Juventus scarcely met even with resistance.

For any British club visiting Turin, the template to be employed might be Arsenal's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final victory of 1980, when Paul Vaessen scored the only goal of a tense game against Juventus in the closing moments. Rangers could not muster such hardiness and sheer humiliation lay behind Alex Cleland's coarse foul on Alessandro del Piero that brought an ordering-off in the second half.

Smith sought no sympathy for the absence of Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup, Charlie Miller and Alan McLaren. The Juventus squad, he noted, was just as depleted. Rangers had mislaid not so much a handful of players as the cohesiveness that protects them in domestic football. Four goals were lost on Wednesday, yet Rangers have conceded only two to date in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

When the worth of a team is being assessed, European football applies more exacting criteria. Against Juventus, Rangers were panic-stricken in defence, outmanoeuvred in midfield and clumsy in attack. They may consequently dream of the abolition of the three-foreigners restriction, that would allow them to import as much talent as they can afford.

However, demographics and economics will make it impossible for Rangers to match clubs such as Juventus even then. In any case, money may not be the sole answer. On Wednesday, the Continent staged an extended exhibition of precocity. Del Piero, 20, overwhelmed Rangers. In Madrid, Raul, 18, scored a hat-trick for Real against Ferencvaros. Patrick Kluivert, 19, struck twice in Ajax's 3-0 victory over Grasshoppers and a goal from Lars Ricken, also 19, of Borussia Dortmund, beat Steaua Bucharest.

Each has been produced by his club's own youth policy. Lacking such resources in Turin should make Rangers reflect on problems deep within their homeland.

☐ Gascoigne could find himself cast as a hangover cure when Rangers face Heart of Midlothian tomorrow. Smith said yesterday that Gascoigne is back in training after a thigh strain and could play at Ibrox, and then against Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final on Tuesday.

MAURO PILONE



Salenko, right, of Rangers, struggles to get the better of Porrini during the Champions' League match in Turin

Birmingham under scrutiny

By Russell Kempson

BIRMINGHAM City's ability to grab headlines was no better illustrated than yesterday, when the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club was asked for explanations on two counts. Its first accusers were the St Andrew's supporters, who claimed they were being overcharged by having to pay a £15 membership fee before they could buy tickets for away matches.

At the game against Portsmouth at Fratton Park on Saturday, Birmingham's 200-strong London Supporters' Club collected 700 signatures calling for the Away Travel Club to be scrapped.

Birmingham City Council's trading standards office is investigating.

David Sullivan, co-owner of the club, said there may have been minor mistakes in advertising prices for pre-season match tickets. "If we have done something wrong — and I don't think we have — we will have to pay the price," he said.

Birmingham could also face action by the Football League over complaints that they made an illegal approach for Paul Peschisolido, their former striker. Peschisolido now plays for Stoke City and is married to Karren Brady, the managing director of Birmingham.

It has also been claimed by Stoke that Brady was "unethical and unprofessional" in revealing private information about Peschisolido's transfer from St Andrew's. Stoke are paying Birmingham £10,000 for every goal, over five and up to 20, that Peschisolido scores this season.

The Football Association has signed a £2 million sponsorship deal with the manufacturer of Snickers, the chocolate bar. The money will be used for the England team and to help to promote football at schools level.

British teams still refusing to learn lesson



Rob Hughes reflects on another night of European failure for the English and Scottish champions

AS Blackburn Rovers and Rangers returned home vanquished in the early hours of yesterday morning, the painful truth dawned that, of 28 goals scored in six European Cup Champions' League games on Wednesday night, not one entered the net from the boot or head of a British footballer.

Richard Gough will claim that his goal, a consolation after Juventus had already put four past Rangers, cannot be taken away from him. But the Juventus goalkeeper would claim that he was beaten only after the ball had taken a wicked deflection off the defender, Cira Fererra.

The 4-1 scoreline in favour of the Italians was at least a hiding for the Scottish champions from a high-quality team. Blackburn have now played five European games over two seasons and beaten nobody. That is the pain of the truth: our champions are rank novices abroad, our football is living a lie if you listen to those who insist that British is best.

Ray Harford, such a genuine man, and such a new manager of the English champions, tried to hide what must have been his true feelings as the team returned to Blackpool airport. "There's still hope," he said. "I was quite pleased with our shape tonight. We looked like the Blackburn of old, we kept a rigid shape, we were very difficult to beat."

> 'Blackburn are novices abroad, our football is living a lie'

Rigid — there is the word that gives it all away. Legia Warsaw, a team representing a country in a state of improvisation, still learning how to adjust to capitalism after communism, were just as ravaged by injuries as Blackburn and nobody would presume them to be among the elite of Europe. Yet they were a team that moved without rigidity, without stereotype.

When Blackburn began this quest last month, Harford had said: "There is no question of adapting our game to suit the Europeans." No indeed. But where, one wonders, lies the contribution of Kenny Dalglish? Having vacated the managerial chair in the summer, yet retained a lucrative position at the club, we were told that King Kenny was the European expert. He has not, it would appear, set foot out of the country to peruse any opponent. He certainly was not aboard in Warsaw, not there to lend visible support to the struggle.

To be fair, it was Dalglish who gave credibility to Jack Walker's dream of resurrecting Rovers. But now, with the whole enterprise sagging, the suggestion is that even Alan Shearer does not have the guile, the movement or the experience to outwit a marker and a sweeper. The European expertise of a highly paid employee, it seems, is absent.

Yet, what price experience? Pawel Janas, formerly a stalwart defender in the Poland national team and now the coach to Legia, journeyed to Ewood Park last Saturday to spy on Blackburn for himself. In contrast, Harford had studied videotape of four Legia matches, none of which contained footage of Jerzy Podbruzny, the goalscorer who separated the teams in Warsaw on Wednesday.

There is something secondhand, something parochial and peculiarly British about the way that our teams venture into the unknown. And so swift has Blackburn's rise been that it has been impossible to promote from within, to build a youth policy, to prepare for Europe years in advance in the way that other teams do.

Wednesday was a night for youth. Ajax, of course, have turned boys into men from the outset; and Patrick Kluivert, whose goal won the European Cup last May, scored two of the three this time as they brushed aside Grasshopper Zurich in group D.

Beating that, in the same group, Raul Gonzales, 18, netted a hat-trick in Real Madrid's 6-1 victory over Ferencvaros. However, he did have more than a little help from an old-timer. Michel Gonzales, no relation but 14 years his senior, bridged the sporting generation gap by prompting and providing for the teenager.

And, though it was the ravenous Ravanelli, playing after an ultrasonic scan on an injured thigh, who devastated Rangers with two goals in Turin, there was another one for Alessandro Del Piero, the young conscript of the Italian armed forces.

Finally, in the youth stakes, Lars Ricken, another teenager, scored the only goal by which Borussia Dortmund beat Steaua Bucharest, the one goal from 16 shots that Borussia fired at the Romanian net.

A look around Europe produces so little comfort for those at home. Blackburn, still swearing that the FA Carling Premiership is their priority, moved in and out of Warsaw seeing and learning not a thing about people's lives, or about the greater subtleties of European play.

New Avenue head back to main road

By Keith Pike

IT WAS a fixture soaked in nostalgia. There it was, sandwiched between matches in the Unibond League and the Avon Insurance Combination in the list for Wednesday night, Bradford Park Avenue versus Accrington Stanley, a contest resonant of cloth caps and boots with toecaps.

Accrington, who resigned from the Football League in 1962, won 3-2 after extra time to book their place in the second qualifying round of the FA Umbro Trophy. Tomorrow, Avenue will be hoping for better things in the FA Cup, when they travel to Marine for a fourth qualifying round tie.

Both games will help to raise the profile of a club some might have thought had died when Avenue failed to gain re-election to the League in 1970, a decision that enabled Cambridge United to enter the fourth division and that still rankles with some in Yorkshire.

"I heard it on the radio, and I just could not believe it," Alan Sutcliffe, an Avenue supporter for nearly 40 years, said yesterday. Thus began a battle for survival that is now beginning to pay dividends.

Four years spent flirting with liquidation and playing in the Northern Premier League only extended Avenue's agonies. The ground was sold in 1973, and in May 1974, shareholders voted to wind up the club, formed in 1907, over debts of £57,652. Diehard supporters registered the club's name at Companies House, formed a Sunday league club, and for 14 seasons refused to let the name die.

In 1988, with Sutcliffe now secretary, Avenue entered the West Riding County Amateur League. They earned a place in the North West Counties League for the 1990-91 season, which got them to the lower reaches of the promotion pyramid. But it was last season, now as tenants at Batley rugby league club, that Avenue's revival really gathered pace.

Twenty points behind Cliftheroe with 13 matches left, Avenue won the lot, and the league by four points. A reasonable start to the Unibond League first division campaign this season has been coupled with FA Cup victories over Armthorpe Welfare, Knowsley United, Accrington and Curzon Ashton, so that they are now one victory away from a place in the first round proper of a competition in which they reached the quarter-finals three times.

"It has taken us a lot longer than we thought, but we are now properly re-established and are aiming for a place in the Vauxhall Conference by 2000," Sutcliffe said. "Best of all, next season we hope to be playing at Horsfall Stadium, just over a mile away from our old ground in Bradford. We think that our crowds [at present around 250] will double overnight."

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet v Boreham Wood (7.45).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v UCD (7.45); Drogheda v Dundalk (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v Galway (7.45); Athlone v Shelbourne (8.0).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Grantham v East Riding (at South Kesteven Stadium, 7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

HALIFAX EMERGING NATIONS WORLD CUP: Group one: Cook Islands v Scotland (at Castleford, 7.30); Russia v United States (at Warrington, 7.30). Group two: Ireland v Morocco (at Dewsbury, 7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Club match

Pontypridd v Abercynon (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: McDonald's Championship (London Arena, 7.0 and 9.30).

CRICKET: Indoor World Cup (Villa Park, Birmingham).

GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (St Andrews).

SNOOKER: Skoda Grand Prix (Sunderland).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Oxford v Arena Essex (7.45); Peterborough v Belle Vue.

TENNIS: International women's tournament (Brighton).

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
FC Porto	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Nantes	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Aalborg	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

☐ Aalborg replaced Dynamo Kiev in group.

RESULTS: Sept 13: Nantes 0 FC Porto 0; Sept 27: FC Porto 2 Aalborg 0; Panathinaikos 3 Nantes 1. Oct 18: Nantes 3 Aalborg 1; FC Porto 0 Panathinaikos 1.

FIXTURES: Oct 25: Aalborg v Panathinaikos. Nov 1: Panathinaikos v FC Porto; Aalborg v Nantes. Nov 22: Panathinaikos v Aalborg; FC Porto v Nantes. Dec 6: Nantes v Panathinaikos; Aalborg v FC Porto.

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Moscow	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Legia Warsaw	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Rosenborg BK	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Blackburn	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

RESULTS: Sept 13: Blackburn 0 Spartak 1; Legia 3 Rosenborg 1. Sept 27: Rosenborg 2 Blackburn 1; Spartak 2 Legia 1. Oct 18: Legia 1 Blackburn 0; Rosenborg 2 Spartak 4.

FIXTURES: Nov 1: Spartak v Rosenborg; Blackburn v Legia. Nov 22: Spartak v Blackburn; Rosenborg v Legia. Dec 6: Legia v Spartak; Blackburn v Rosenborg.

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
B Dortmund	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
S Bucharest	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Rangers	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

RESULTS: Sept 13: Borussia Dortmund 1 Juventus 3; Steaua Bucharest 1 Rangers 0. Sept 27: Juventus 3 Steaua Bucharest 0; Rangers 2 Borussia Dortmund 2. Oct 18: Juventus 4 Rangers 1; Borussia Dortmund 1 Steaua Bucharest 0.

FIXTURES: Nov 1: Rangers v Juventus; Steaua Bucharest v Borussia Dortmund. Nov 22: Rangers v Steaua Bucharest; Juventus v Borussia Dortmund. Dec 6: Borussia Dortmund v Rangers; Steaua Bucharest v Juventus.

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Real Madrid	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Ferencvaros	3	1	0	2	5	11	3
Grasshopper	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

RESULTS: Sept 13: Grasshopper Zurich 0 Ferencvaros 3; Ajax 1 Real Madrid 0. Sept 27: Real Madrid 2 Grasshopper Zurich 0; Ferencvaros 1 Ajax 5. Oct 18: Ajax 3 Grasshopper Zurich 0; Real Madrid 6 Ferencvaros 1.

FIXTURES: Nov 1: Ferencvaros v Real Madrid; Grasshopper Zurich v Ajax. Nov 22: Ferencvaros v Grasshopper Zurich; Real Madrid v Ajax. Dec 6: Ajax v Ferencvaros; Grasshopper Zurich v Real Madrid.

QUARTER-FINALS

March 6 (first leg): runner-up group B v winner group A; runner-up group A v winner group B; runner-up group D v winner group C; runner-up group C v winner group D.

March 20 (second leg): winner group A v runner-up group B; winner group B v runner-up group A; winner group C v runner-up group D; winner group D v runner-up group C.

SEMI-FINALS

April 3 (first leg): quarter-final 1 v quarter-final 4; quarter-final 2 v quarter-final 3.

April 17 (second leg): quarter-final 1 v quarter-final 4; quarter-final 2 v quarter-final 3.

(Draw to determine venues)

FINAL

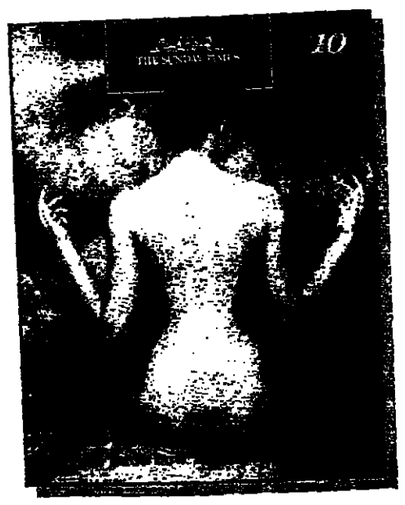
May 15: Venue to be announced.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



It's the big one: England clash with Wales on Saturday in the Rugby League World Cup semi-final. Don't miss The Sunday Times **Sport** for top-class coverage of the match they are calling the Battle of Britain



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The Culture views Helmut Newton's latest studies of nudes and asks: is the naked female still a fit subject for photography?

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Wasps stung by third defection

Popplewell jumps aboard the gravy train to Newcastle

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLISH rugby union will hold a summit meeting in London today as the country's first-division clubs look nervously over their shoulders at Newcastle's encroaching tentacles. Yesterday, Nick Popplewell, of Ireland, agreed to join Newcastle, and that leaves Wasps, in particular, wondering about the shape of their team for the second half of the league season.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) commission, chaired by Tony Hallett, will sit down with representatives of the leading clubs, whose own working parties on contracts, marketing and playing structure reached their conclusions in camera at Leicester on Wednesday evening.

At the same time, the National Clubs Association (NCA), representing all 40 clubs in the top four divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship, is to make a series of representations to the RFU — what the NCA calls "bullet points" — the main thrust of which is to claim a much more influential place at the governing body's table.

The NCA executive believes that the restructuring process undertaken by the RFU earlier this year has already been made obsolete by the decision to make rugby an open game. "The requirements and needs of the top clubs must be addressed as a matter of urgency," their paper determines, to which Wasps would doubtless add their imprimatur now that Popplewell is following the trail blazed by Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan, his club colleagues.

The Ireland prop, capped 33 times, has already returned to Dublin to work, but intends to be available for Wasps while serving his period of eligibility for Newcastle. "The move is very appealing and I see it as a great challenge," Popplewell, 31, said, though Wasps were already looking towards his successor — probably Darren Molloy, when he recovers from a groin strain — because the Irishman is not available for midweek training.

However, his move, in a week when representatives of the Ireland squad are meeting their union to discuss international contracts, is yet further illustration of the pressures afflicting all the leading clubs that seek to protect their players. The NCA paper emphasises the long-term investment by clubs, in player-development and welfare, and their need for proper management control.

"Player contracts must be club contracts primarily, with compensation payable to those clubs whose players also sign an England contract," the NCA argues.



Popplewell: fresh fields

Bristol has already discussed contracts based, in part, on a loyalty clause, while Australian players, for example, are contracted to their provinces.

In South Africa, it is the national union that holds the signatures of the leading players; that, though, is largely a consequence of the threat imposed last summer by the unofficial World Rugby Championship organisation.

"We will all put our cards on the table on Friday," Hallett said. "We understand that we may face a legal challenge to our regulations if we maintain them, or try to tighten them, but, if I were an England player, or aspired to be one, I would stick with the club that brought me to the threshold of international selection. I am optimistic that we have a sufficiently good understanding with the clubs that we can stay together until we get things right."

The NCA, for its part, seeks equivalent status on the RFU to any other constituent body, with its executive committee representing a sub-committee of the union. It also wants greater representation on all the union's sub-committees; in particular, on the streamlined RFU executive committee.

It proposes change to the league structure by retaining a first division of ten clubs, but introducing, from next season, a second division of 14 clubs and a third division of 16. That assumes a European dimension, for which it presses as strongly as it opposes an intermediary divisional strata between club and country, but cross-border fixtures will take a back seat today behind the debate on player movement.

☐ In preparation for the European Cup, Munster, the Irish provincial champions, are to undertake a two-match tour of Italy. They will play Lombardy in Milan on Tuesday and Calvisano three days later. Form on the trip will be considered when the team to play Swansea at Thomond Park in their first ERC pool match, on November 1, is selected. Munster will then take on Castres in France a week later.

☐ Simon Geoghegen, the Ireland wing, is forced to rest an injured groin after marking his debut this season with a try for Bath last weekend. His place in the Bath team to play Harlequins in London tomorrow goes to Audley Lumsden.

☐ Arwel Thomas, the Wales Under-21 stand-off half, will make his league debut for Bristol in the West Country derby against Gloucester at the Memorial Ground tomorrow.

Wood fails to fill void left by Graf's early exit

By Alix Ramsay

THE Brighton Centre had the air of the *Mary Celeste* about it yesterday. Steffi Graf had swept out of town, taking the German press corps and most of the public interest with her. And it was only the second round of the women's international tennis tournament.

Clare Wood, the British No 1, was the nearest thing to a crowd-puller left, but she failed to last until teatime, going out 6-2, 7-6 to Helena Sukova, the No 6 seed and beaten finalist last year. Maybe the Lawn Tennis Association's decision to sell the tournament was a wiser move than anyone had thought — sell quick before it dies on its feet.

Wood, who lives in Brighton, will be sad to see the tournament go. "I just think the top players are more picky about where they play and why," she said. "When Steffi played on Wednesday the place was packed. If she was still here it would still be packed. It just shows the influence of the best players on the tournament."

Brighton results 42



MARC ASPLAND

Wood serves during her straight-sets defeat by Sukova at the Brighton Centre yesterday

Wood's influence on the Brighton wake was not quite as she had hoped. Ranked No 217 in the world, the gap between her and Sukova, the No 20, was made to look unbridgeable as Wood sank to 4-0 down in the first set before waking up to her task.

But even when Wood began to get into her stride, Sukova just eased away from her. "Getting off to a 4-0 down start is not the best way to begin," she said. "It's so difficult to break her and I was struggling even to get close."

She was also struggling to help George Hendon, the tournament director in his final fling at Brighton. The last time she played well at the event was in 1993, when Graf did not enter and she found herself at the centre of local attention. "I thought it would be good to have a British player in the latter stages of the tournament to help George, because he's been good to me. It added a little pressure, but not too much to handle."

Pressure is not something one easily associates with British women's tennis. When the Brighton tournament first started in 1978, Sue Barker and Virginia Wade — who between them had four grand-slam singles titles — flew the flag for Britain. This time Wood was a wild card and Samantha Smith, beaten in the first round, was a qualifier, having just started her comeback after giving up the game altogether to go to university.

The tournament at least has one world top-ten player left in the quarter-finals. Magdalena Maleeva came back from a set down to beat Barbara Rittner 1-6, 6-4, 6-1. As the world No 8, she is now the top seed left in the event. The Brighton tournament may be dead, but it is not buried quite yet.

Watersports centre examines reasons for sickness

By John Goodbody

MEDICAL researchers at Nottingham University are investigating whether there is a health hazard at Holme Pierrepont, Britain's leading watersports centre, which is located in Nottingham.

The Sports Council, which administers the centre, has commissioned the university medical school to conduct a year-long survey after reports of athletes becoming ill. The researchers will test the quality of the water and question competitors about any illnesses they may suffer. The first reports will be given to the council within the next month.

Most of the complaints have centred on the canoe slalom course, which is a diversion of the River Trent, into which treated sewage flows. John Davies, director of the centre which has staged world championships in canoeing and rowing, accepted that there had been about 50 complaints from people with gastric problems but pointed out that about 70,000 people use the centre each year. "People going abroad run the same level of risk," he said.

He emphasised that the slalom course and the separate 2,500-metre rowing course were checked for bacteria. "We are not in the business of putting people at risk," he said. "If there is any risk, we close the centres." This has been necessary five times within the past year.

"During periods of heavy rainfall, there is a potential for untreated raw sewage to flow into the river Trent," Davies added.

Last summer, the artifical regatta lake was also affected by blue-green algae and competitors, such as swimmers and triathletes, who regularly immerse themselves in the water, were stopped from doing so.

Dr Keith Neal, of the university medical school, said that questionnaires were being handed out to users of the centre and nearly 500 had already been collated. He is examining whether there is a link between the quality of the water and any illness. Early results show that the water "is of reasonably good quality".

Hendry made to wait for victory

By Phil Yates

DESPITE kicking his heels for an hour and a half, Stephen Hendry smoothly reached the last 16 of the Skoda Grand Prix in Sunderland yesterday, but that did not prevent the world snooker champion from being heavily critical of the tournament's format.

Hendry, who compiled breaks of 75, 60, 58, 69 and 112 during a 5-2 win over Mark Bennett, was scheduled to play at 2.30pm, but, with several of the early matches over-running, a table did not become available until 4pm.

Hendry described the noon start for the early matches as "ridiculous", adding: "It's not the first time I've been kept waiting like this and my concentration was terrible in the opening few frames."

Hendry, who surprisingly trailed 2-1 before striking a purple patch, continued: "You get yourself ready then have to hang around. I'm sure it was the same for Mark and, besides, by starting later you're cheating the public as well. The win is a relief because I wasn't in a good state mentally."

Bangkok and Sunderland have little in common but, in the last seven months, Willie Thorne has left both cities as the victim of James Wattana's powers of recovery.

In March, Wattana beat him 5-4 in the Thailand Open after falling 4-2 in arrears. Yesterday Thorne led 4-1 after breaks of 43, 109, 62 and 69, yet lost 5-4 on the final black when he misjudged the pace of a safety shot and Wattana potted the vital ball to a balk pocket.

During his 17 years as a professional Steve Davis has been involved in some marathon encounters but, after requiring four hours and 26 minutes to edge out Jason Ferguson 5-4, the six times world champion looked suitably jaded. In contrast, John Higgins, the title-holder, expended little nervous energy during a routine 5-1 win over Neal Foulds.

Results, page 42

Pantani thankful to have survived

MARCO PANTANI, of Italy, who will be out of action for four to six months after colliding with a car at 50mph during the Milan to Turin cycle race on Wednesday, said that it was a miracle he was still alive. Speaking to Beppe Martinelli, the manager of his Carrera-Tassoni team, Pantani said: "What a flight, Beppe. If I'm still alive, it's a real miracle."

The doctor who operated on the exposed break of Pantani's left leg said that he could not rule out further treatment. "He'll need four to six months [to recover] and I can't exclude the possiblity of another operation," he said.

Pantani was chasing the leaders with two other riders down a hill 4½ miles from the finish when the accident happened. As they came out of a bend, they hit a vehicle coming out of a side road. The others suffered only minor injuries.

Dallongeville dazzles

GOLF: Stephanie Dallongeville showed her liking for La Manga Club for the second time this year when she shot a six-under-par 66 to lead the first round of the Spanish Open today. Dallongeville, winner of the qualifying-school tournament over the same course last March, scored seven birdies in her lowest round as a professional. She leads by two strokes Wendy Dicks and Helen Wadsworth, of Britain, who share second place with the defending champion, Marie-Laure de Lorenzi. Rachel Hetherington, of Australia, and Sofia Gronberg and Asa Gottmo, both of Sweden.

Bates outclassed



TENNIS: Michael Chang, the American top seed, needed only 51 minutes to beat the British player, Jeremy Bates, right, in the second round of the Beijing tournament yesterday. Chang, rated fifth in the world, won 6-3, 6-2, to book a berth in the quarter-finals, joining Shuzo Matsuoka, of Japan, and the sixth-seed, Scott Draper, of Australia, who beat Henrik Dreekman, of Germany, in three hard sets.

Burns makes progress

MOTOR RALLYING: Richard Burns, of Britain, recorded the fastest time of the day in the 555 Hong Kong-Beijing Rally yesterday to pull himself up to third place overall. With one day to go, he is 3min 29sec behind the leader, Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden. "My goal is to be fastest on the final two stages — though they are on tarmac and I am a little out of practice in that style of driving," Burns said.

Records shattered

POWERBOATING: Geoff Purves, of Leatherhead, broke the world record for Offshore Class III four-litre boats, with a speed of 91.63mph, in the annual record attempts week on Windermere. Andreas Kuphal, of Germany, set a world record of 79.29mph for 250cc hydroplanes. Tony Davis, of Poole, broke the national record for national production cruisers II, with a speed of 73.03mph.

Boost for Obree's Olympic chances

By Peter Bryan

THREE weeks after regaining his world 4,000 metres cycling pursuit title in Colombia, Graeme Obree yesterday signed a one-year contract that, he said, "could take away all my worries about preparing properly for the Atlanta Olympics next year".

Obree, without a main sponsor since he first made an impact in 1993, when he broke the world one-hour record and went on to win the world pursuit title, will ride for Scotoil, an Aberdeen company providing services to the oil industry.

The Olympic Games are Obree's main target for 1996 when Chris Boardman, of Britain, is unlikely to be able to defend the title he won in Barcelona because he is committed to the Tour de France as leader of the French Gan team.

Obree ensured Britain's entry for the Games with his world pursuit victory over Andrea Collinelli, of Italy, by 0.495sec last month with a time of 4min 24.182sec.

"This contract gives me the freedom I have always wanted," Obree said yesterday. "It means that I am not forced to ride to earn appearance-money. Now I can select my own programme of events and know that I won't be out of pocket."

The Scot, 30, has his first race since the world championship in Italy on Sunday, a one-kilometre road time-trial, but goes on to more serious things the next day with a 4,000 metres pursuit against Boardman in Paris.

Obree appeared, yesterday, to have been persuaded that he should give up building his own racing frames, leaving it to more expert hands. He said he might "switch to bikes that are made from carbon fibre rather than steel".

☐ Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, won his second Tour of Piedmont title yesterday, breaking away with four kilometres remaining and then holding off Stefano Zanini, winner of the Milan-Turin race.

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TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO NEPAL

Atherton feels comfortable in hot seat

David Miller finds the England captain in a confident mood as he sets out to conquer South Africa



Atherton, maturing as batsman and captain, looks set for a lengthy reign. Photograph: John Manning

There is nobody in English sport more exposed, in performance, character and leadership, than the captain of the Test team. Ian Chappell, foremost among Australia cricket captains, said when commentating on the Melbourne Test last winter: "These are the field placings of a captain who has lost faith in his bowlers."

Michael Atherton's captaincy survived a disappointing, much criticised tour: just. He was initially reappointed, some thought insultingly, only for the opening three matches of the summer. By September, he had confirmed that he is becoming one of the outstanding England captains in post-war cricket.

For his resolution at the crease and leadership against West Indies, he is certainly more worthy of being the sports personality of the year than the BBC's usual run of snooker players, motor racing drivers or self-preoccupied runners.

During a period of substantial change in personnel and constant frustration from injuries, Atherton has held the reins for 24 of his 50 Tests, winning seven and losing ten. He is only 27. On England's first official visit to South Africa for 31 years, he has the chance to consolidate a position that could remain his to the turn of the century.

For a Lancastrian, he has a Yorkshire streak of obstinacy that is invaluable both as opening batsman and captain. Like a panel of walnut wood, the colours of his personality have become more apparent with maturity. He is pleasingly without assumptions.

"I haven't changed much in style," he says, "just become more experienced, so that I'm able to do better because I'm dealing with things for the second or third time. I'm more positive, though that's not to say I was previously negative.

"Maybe my demeanour, the field placings [in Australia], betrayed we were on the back foot, that we needed more kidology. After the defeat in Brisbane, it was difficult."

He feels he has been consistent, true to himself, straightforward with the team. "Those who play under me know that I'm not image-conscious, that what they see is what they get. It's very simple. I demand the basics from them. If they don't give that, I'm entitled to feel upset, if they do, I'm understanding of their [individual] failings." Like the best in any field, he leads by example.

Atherton played for England first under David Gower, briefly in 1989, then Graham Gooch: for Lancashire, under David Hughes, Neil Fairbrother and Mike Watkinson. He learnt by observation rather than discussion. "I do talk to people, but there's no one I ring once a week. I did go out of my way to talk to Ian Chappell, the best of the modern Australians, and I've been lucky to have had Keith Fletcher and Raymond Illingworth [as managers] because they're so well-regarded."

Cannily, he never considers how long he might continue, always thinking in the short term, aware that reversal lurks around every corner. "I've been around long enough to know that if you're coasting, the game can come back at you," he said, remembering his back injury four years ago.

Atherton has found the relentless pressure of public scrutiny and expectation, and the demanding calendar, has served to harden his resolve to find a winning team. The tabloid pack is not going to break this one.

"Playing the year round, you either lose your edge or become more determined. I feel more on top of it now, have proved I can handle the pressure of getting my due amount of runs at the top of the order — which is important as captain — and that tactically I've got a grip of things. I hope I'll improve."

In his unassuming way, he is not sure if his reliability at the crease has come from need, the responsibility as captain or simply from the aggregate of experience. He admits the captaincy can at times be a burden, but talks lightly of the requirement for "a bit of equilibrium." He smiles easily.

On his relationship with Illingworth, who has Field Marshal Montgomery's certainty of his own wisdom, Atherton is frank yet tactful. But the management structure is simpler and clearer, he says, with Illingworth as chairman and manager, and the captain in charge on the field, dealing with players first-hand.

"He's not an interferer," Atherton says. "He's happy to let me get on with things, but I like to have him in the dressing-room because he has a good presence, he's somebody I can fall back on, talk to at lunchtime and teatime if the need arises. He's not too distant, despite his age. He's a professional Yorkshireman, and there's not a game in which he took five for 100 that he doesn't recall off-hand. He leaves room for self-mockery, which contradicts the criticism. I think he prefers the dressing-room to the committee-room."

Atherton insists he is happy with the extent of his input on selection. Illingworth having the casting vote, and that they are now finding the continuity of selection fundamental to success. "If you chop and change you get nowhere."

After the Old Trafford Test this summer, men from Manchester Grammar School were queueing up to congratulate their former colleague, yet Atherton, never mind his Cambridge University background, sits comfortably in John Major's classless society: shoulder-to-shoulder with his team, yet sufficiently apart, and severe, to be a respected captain.

The eye that can, and does, stare down Ambrose, when he follows through intimidatingly is one to avoid by any England player who might drift.

When Atherton came on the scene in 1989, the Test side had been through a period of free-wheeling: a clique of friends sure of a place, a good income, and a shade happy-go-lucky. Atherton wants men who are first for England. "If there was any of that now, nice 'n' easy, they'd be out. We're getting there, the right type in the team, no bad eggs, nobody 'getting by'. There's enough competition for that to be long past." Of the party for South Africa, the eight or nine "certain picks" make a sound nucleus — a happier situation, the captain says, than having Stewart, Smith, Gough, Malcolm and Hick injured, as in recent experience.

> **'We're getting there, the right type in the team, no bad eggs, no just getting by'**

"The established batsmen, myself, Stewart, Smith, Thorpe and Hick, are all in the right age group, all experienced, with Test hundreds behind them. That's a strong batting side. Malcolm, Gough, and Cork have genuine pace and fire-power, Fraser and Martin less pace but steadiness, applying pressure through accuracy. So I'm hopeful. The key thing will be maintaining fitness."

The No 3 in the batting order, he admits, is the debate. There was talk of taking another opener, but it was considered best for Nick Knight and Jason Gallian to go to Pakistan on the A tour. "The chance is there for Ramprakash or Crawley to take."

Atherton shrugs off South Africa's high-pitched, in-season preparation. "That's an advantage, but we're the more experienced, and you soon get back the buzz. The first three Tests will decide the series — they're the 'result' wickets."

If the England batsmen master Allan Donald, Atherton should return home victorious.

Of sausages and kings

***Kaleidoscope Longings*: Tintagel on Trial.** *Radio 4, 9.30pm.*

Brian Patten's poetry is as accessible as the man himself. So, he is an ideal choice to be our guide through that rocky stretch of north Cornwall where myths abound. All involve Arthur, his knights, and good old Merlin. What began romantically with Malory and continued with Tennyson, has taken a turn for the worse in the town of Tintagel. They sell Excaliburgers in a fast food shop, and there's a cafe where, if you order a Sir Lancelot, you get a jacket potato stuffed with beans and sausages. Schoolchildren sing a song about departed knights and dead dragons. Yet Arthur is more real to them than Superman. For the romantically minded, it is welcome news that Tintagel has not totally banished magic.

Composer of the Week. *Radio 3, noon.*

Long overdue is this acknowledgment that Charles Villiers Stanford is worthy of the *Composer of the Week* accolade. The Stanford works we have been hearing this week have mostly been intelligently chosen to show the wide range of his output. Just one complaint, though. I should have thought Radio 3 was opposed to what Classic FM often does — play single movements from symphonies and sonatas. Today, we hear only the first movement from Stanford's Cello Sonata No 2, and the third movement from his Symphony No 7. But the third and fourth Irish rhapsodies are heard as written. It would have been impossible to cut them.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo: 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.00 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo, incl at 9.00 the Golden Hour 12.00 Lisa l'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Clive Warren, incl at 4.40 *Judge Dredd*; at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 The Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00-4.00am Tim Westwood

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wogan 9.15 Pause 9.30 Ken Bruce, incl at 10.00 Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Funny You Should Ask 7.30 BBC Concert Orchestra 8.45 Raffles(3/6) 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Michael Parkinson 12.05am Dig by Fellweather 1.00 Sue McGarry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am *Morning Reports*, incl at 5.45 Money 6.00 Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 Magazine, incl Euronews and at 11.00 News; Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 Nationwide incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News, incl at 7.20 sport results 7.35 Parkinson 8.05 American Graffiti 9.35 Stop Press 10.05 Entertainment 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 Financial World 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

5.55am Weather
6.00 On Air: Mozart (Piano Concerto No 26 in D, Coronation); Purcell (Welcome Song: Fly, bold rebellion); Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 in G); Sinding (Suite, Op 10, in Olden Style); Handel (Water Music Suite in F); Puccini (Tua Madre, La Rondine)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini: Elgar (Chanson de matin); Haydn (Piano Sonatas: Sonata in D minor); Debussy (La Damoiselle élue); Brahms (Violin Sonata in A, Op 100)
10.00 Musical Encounters: Incl *Artist of the Week*: Anne Queffélec, piano. Dutilleux (Sonata); 10.25 Ross Edwards (Veni creator spiritus); Anchieta (Con amoress, la mi madre); Anon (Pesame de vos, el Conde); Encina (Fata la parte); Scarlatti (Sonatas: in C sharp minor; in G); Roussel (*Bacchus et Ariane*: Suite No 2)
12.00 Fairest Isle: Composer of the Week: Stanford. See Choice.
1.00 Fairest Isle: Chamber Music from Manchester: Medea Quartet. Mathias (String Quartet No 2); Schmitt (String Quartet No 3)
2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner
3.00 Mining the Archive: *Alexander Gibson*. The second of four programmes on the life and work of the conductor, who died this year. Including Sibelius (The Bard); Iain Hamilton (Sinfonia for transcriptions); Shostakovich (Gruchen); Berlioz (Les Troyens, excerpts)
4.20 Fairest Isle: Turns of the Century. Russell Davies celebrates Frank Randle
4.30 Fairest Isle: Lost Voices. English folk songs (2/3)
5.00 The Music Stretcher: Featuring the pupils of Stanwell Comprehensive, Penarth
5.15 In Tune: Balfe (Overture: The Bohemian Girl); Scriabin (Nocturne in D flat for piano left hand, Op 9 No 2); Hensett (Piano Concerto in F minor)
7.30 Fairest Isle: Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, under Oliver Knussen. Knussen (Two Organa); Mark-Anthony Turnage (Sulfur Greek); 8.05 Pierrot and Beyond. A portrait of the Pierrot Players and their successors the Fires of London; 8.25 Maxwell Davies (Eight Songs for a Mad King)
9.15 Fairest Isle: The Instrument-Makers. The Improving Organ. With the organist Thomas Trotter and the historian Nicholas Thistlethwaite
9.40 Hear and Now: Rolf Hind, piano; Music Projects London under Richard Bernas. Xenakis (Arouna); Giacinto Scelsi (Natura Renovatur); Jo Kondo (Threadbare Unlimited); Karen Tanaka (Cristalline; Hommage en Cristal); Elliott Carter (Adagio tenebroso)
12.00-1.00am The Land Where the Good Songs Go: Lerner after Loewe (r)

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing, incl weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day with the Rev Johnston McKay 6.30 Today with Sue McGregor and John Humphrys incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs Academic and author Richard Hoggart talks to Sue Lawley (r)
9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley airs listeners' comments
10.00 News; Under the Indian Sun Clare Jenkins visits Calcutta (1/2) (FM only)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour Introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: Rosemary Leach reads the concluding episode of *Mrs Frampton* by Pam Gems.
11.30 The Natural History Programme Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00pm News; You and Yours With Liz Barclay
12.25 The Food Programme Derek Cooper assesses the best of this year's cookbooks; 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Uncle Silas: Teresa Gallagher and George Cole star in Alan Drury's dramatisation of Sheridan Le Fanu's gothic novel (2/3) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift With Laurie Taylor. Impressionist Steve Nallon discusses the joys of return flights
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope at Greenwich Tim Marlow investigates the current state of the Royal Naval Hospital
4.45 Short Story: The Sticky Carpet. A man's fear of love is explored in Frank Ronan's gentle romance, read by Michael Cashman (r).
5.00 PM with Nigel Wrench and Wendy Jones 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places With David Stafford
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week With Nick Baker
8.05 Any Questions? From Nottingham with Eric Forth, MP, Minister of State for Education; Tony Benn, MP; Sir David Steel, MP; and Jude Kelly, artistic director of West Yorkshire Playhouse.
8.50 Law In Action with Marcel Berlins (new series)
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Longings: See Choice (r); 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Country Doctor's Notebook, by Mikhail Bulgakov (5/5) (r).
11.00 Week Ending
11.25 Tear Junction With Patrick Hannan
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00am News incl 12.27 approx Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Information. An abridged reading of Martin Amis's novel by Willem Nighy (15/15); 12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe 5.45 Folk 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Europe 8.00 News 8.15 *Catherine Carmichael* 8.30 Lion's Den 9.00 News 9.15 Faith 9.15 Music 10.00 News in German 10.15 Faith 10.45 Sports 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 *Catherine Carmichael* Noon Newsdesk 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 News 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Science 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Alternative 4.00 News in German 4.15 Music 5.00 News 5.15 World Today 5.30 News in German 6.00 Europe 6.30 Business 6.45 Sports 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 News in German 8.00 News 8.05 Outlook 8.25 Faith 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World 11.45 Sports Midnight News 12.10am Science 12.15 John Peel 12.45 Farming 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Waistline 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.10 Press 2.15 Seven Days 2.30 Jazz 2.45 Books 3.00 Newsday 3.30 People and Politics 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Early Breakfast 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Mike Reed 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Anna (Favourite Concerto No 3 in A) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Mendelssohn: (Violin Sonata in F) 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Vienna Philharmonic: Nicolai (Overture: The Merry Wives of Windsor); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor); Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel) 10.00 Michael Maggin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Janey Lee 2.00am Howard Pearce

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe 5.45 Folk 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Europe 8.00 News 8.15 *Catherine Carmichael* 8.30 Lion's Den 9.00 News 9.15 Faith 9.15 Music 10.00 News in German 10.15 Faith 10.45 Sports 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 *Catherine Carmichael* Noon Newsdesk 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 News 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Science 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Alternative 4.00 News in German 4.15 Music 5.00 News 5.15 World Today 5.30 News in German 6.00 Europe 6.30 Business 6.45 Sports 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 News in German 8.00 News 8.05 Outlook 8.25 Faith 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World 11.45 Sports Midnight News 12.10am Science 12.15 John Peel 12.45 Farming 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Waistline 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.10 Press 2.15 Seven Days 2.30 Jazz 2.45 Books 3.00 Newsday 3.30 People and Politics 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Early Breakfast 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Mike Reed 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Anna (Favourite Concerto No 3 in A) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Mendelssohn: (Violin Sonata in F) 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Vienna Philharmonic: Nicolai (Overture: The Merry Wives of Windsor); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor); Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel) 10.00 Michael Maggin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Janey Lee 2.00am Howard Pearce

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE: MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK: MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Hanney, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson.

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Azharuddin gives India upper hand

THE INDIA bowlers used spin and swing to take control of the first cricket Test against New Zealand in Bangalore yesterday, tormenting the visiting batsmen on a pitch that was rapidly deteriorating. At the close, New Zealand were 125 for five in their second innings.

Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, is the only batsman from either side to have shown any mastery of the bowling, his innings of 87 helping India to score 228 in their first innings in reply to New Zealand's 145.

Azharuddin was not out 21 at the start of the day and was nearing his hundred when the New Zealand pace bowlers, led superbly by Chris Cairns, fought back after lunch. In one spell, Cairns took four wickets for eight, including that of Azharuddin, in 13.4 overs.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 145 (Kumble 4 for 39).

Second Innings

M J Greatbatch b Prabhakar	16
B A Young lbw b Prabhakar	8
†A C Parore lbw b Srinath	3
M D Crowe lbw b Kumble	24
S P Fleming not out	33
S A Thomson c Monga b Kumble	6
C L Cairns not out	23
Extras (b 4, lb 8)	12
Total (5 wkts)	125

FALL: 1-19, 2-32, 3-36, 4-58, 5-80.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 8-3-23-2; Srinath 9-6-14-1, Kumble 11-2-33-2; Chauhan 4-1-17-0; Raju 6-0-26-0

INDIA: First Innings

M Prabhakar c Germon b Morrison	4
A Jadeja c Young b Morrison	59
S V Manjrekar lbw b Nash	15
S R Tendulkar c Young b Nash	4
*†M Azharuddin b Cairns	87
V G Kambli c Parore b Nash	27
†N R Monga lbw b Cairns	1
A Kumble not out	6
J Srinath b Cairns	0
R Chauhan c Young b Morrison	1
S L V Raju c Hart b Cairns	0
Extras (b 8, nb 12, w 4)	24
Total	228

FALL: 1-11, 2-45, 3-54, 4-149, 5-211, 6-214, 7-220, 8-220, 9-227.

BOWLING: Morrison 18-5-61-3, Cairns 17.4-5-44-4; Nash 16-3-60-3, Hart 7-1-28-0, Thomson 12-3-37-0.

Umpires: S K Bansal (India) and M Kitchen (England)

England join culture crusade

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN JOHANNESBURG

AN OFFICIAL England cricket team landed in South Africa yesterday for the first time in 30 years, and were immediately welcomed by their hosts as partners in helping to build a new country. Before they do that, however, they must first "entrench", as Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board, put it, "a Test-match culture" in the Republic.

Public interest in the series is high and Bacher hopes that 350,000 spectators will attend the five Tests. "I hope you will help us in our endeavours to take cricket to all the people of South Africa," he told Michael Atherton, the England captain, and his players at a lunchtime reception here. "You can play a leading role in the new South Africa."

Bacher's comments were amplified by Steve Tshwete, the Minister of Sport. The tour, he said, was taking place "against a backdrop of fascinating developments in our sporting life". The four-day game against a strong Invitation XI, which begins in Soweto next Friday, was an example of the "nation-building that permeates every aspect of life here today".

Without tub-thumping, Tshwete said: "The tour is an investment not only in sport but also in the well-being of our country. You are assisting us in our efforts to build a country at ease with itself and with the rest of the world."

Although the visit by Australia two winters ago was an occasion to savour, there is a widely-held belief that England's return carries more significance. Bacher reminded his audience that English settlers brought cricket to the Cape, and were South Africa's first Test opponents.

Raymond White, vice-president of the cricket board, offered his own memory of England's victory in Durban, 30 years ago. "They had two of the best off spinners in the world, David Allen and Fred Titmus, and a pitch was prepared for them. I don't think that will happen again!"

The Duke of Edinburgh opened the new indoor cricket school at Lord's yesterday. The £2.4 million centre was funded by MCC, the Lord's Taverners and through a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, and Jonty Rhodes will play against England in Soweto, members of a team that will feature one player from each of the eight provinces and three more from what Bacher calls "the disadvantaged communities"; in other words, the townships.

There is still a long way to go before black cricketers take their place in a South Africa team as of right, and Bacher is convinced that window-dressing of that sort has no value. "The national side must be the best one and when a cricketer from one of those communities is ready, he will be picked. But we are not there yet."

☐ Kent have reappointed Mark Benson as captain for next season, despite finishing in bottom place in the Britannic Assurance county championship for the first time this century. Benson, who took over the captaincy from Chris Cowdrey in 1991, was restricted by injury last summer and the side was often led by Steve Marsh, the wicketkeeper. The season finished on an upbeat note when Kent captured the AXA Equity & Law League title.

Answers from page 42

TARD VENUS
(c) A Grand Free Company formed to follow its own route. "Another peculiarly vicious band, the Tard Venus or late-comers terrorised Lyons." They were mostly Gascons and Englishmen (the most brutal thugs of the period), with a sprinkling of Germans and Irish, and their finest (or at any rate most notorious) hour was the Hundred Years War.
MOANING MINNIE
(b) World War One slang for a German trench mortar shell, which made a demoralising wail before its cramp. Trench humour for the German name, Minenwerfer.
BLIGHTY ONE
(a) World War One slang for a serious wound requiring hospital, and with a bit of luck, return to Britain. Blighty was Indian Army slang for England from the Hindustani Bilayati = foreign. Others allege, less persuasively, that it comes from Belait, an Indian's attempt to get his tongue round the pronunciation of Britain.
GOOSE-WINGED
(c) In fore-and-aft rigged ships this is a sail setting for a following wind, mainsail out one side, foresail the other. Old-style, true-blue deepwater sailors scornfully called such a rig suitable for "a soldier's wind", because the wind comes from straight aft, there is no need to tack, and any fool, even a soldier, can probably manage it.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 dxc7! Rxc7 (if Black does not capture this pawn, e.g. 1 ... Re8 then 2 Bd6 leaves White with an overwhelming material and positional advantage) 2 Bd6 Rxc6+ 3 dxc6+ Kxc6 4 Rxe5 and White emerges a piece ahead.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Stand at ease? Not with all this attention

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Whoever invented the expression "fly on the wall" has a lot to answer for. Personally, it always makes me think of a real fly on a real wall — which may, admittedly, be in a position to watch everything unnoticed, but (trait 1) it is absorbed in licking its legs. Still, we all love a buzz-word (ho ho); and though people frequently misuse fly-on-the-wall, there is no point trying to swat them with a copy of this newspaper, because — well, you know. The little varmints launch, veer, and settle somewhere else.

The point is, how can Molly Dineen's **In the Company of Men** (BBC2) be described as fly-on-the-wall? The style of her film-making is to infiltrate people's lives: she makes friends, tags along, asks questions. Instead of forgetting she's there, the subjects include her in their drama. She resembles an imaginary child friend, a flattering appendage to the needy ego, who is always still there when they wake up in the morning. And as with imaginary child friends, everyone just gets used to it. "It's a phase," they shrug. "Jam roly-poly, sir?" "Yes please, *and Molly wants some too.*"

So, having established that there are no flies on it, what to make of *In the Company of Men*? Last night's first instalment concerned Major Crispin Black of the Welsh Guards, commander of the Prince of Wales Company, stationed in Northern Ireland and guarding a police station near the border. Filmed before the peace initiative, it made an attractive and absorbing hour — the tense, grey, drizzly situation contrasting with the openness and amiability of the young major, who takes from his suitcase a copy of *Tatler*, and answers every question with the same equanimity. "Why do you eat so many chips?" Dineen asks innocently, from behind the camera; or "Do you want to get married?"

Black had an easy authority; he looked better in uniform than out of it. "Self-conscious" is an expression in English, but not one he would recognise. Next week, when Dineen's focus broadens to the whole company, we will see how he is regarded by the men. But from his own viewpoint, he looks like an excellent commander. "You have not polished those shagging boots in a week!" seems like a pretty good way of getting things done.

For anyone who never had an imaginary friend, the advantages are obvious in the jam roly-poly department, but there are clearly drawbacks too. In the second episode of Alan Bleasdale's *Jake's Progress*, six-year-old Jake uncovered a murderous alter ego with an American accent; meanwhile, in *Picture This*, a schizophrenic woman called Mattie described a voice that regularly urged her to slash her legs. How odd that in the one area of life where you can be choosy about your acquaintance, the outcome is so dismal.

Jake's Progress (Channel 4) last night found the fierce females in the ascendant, and the sweet, ineffectual menfolk hiding their heads in the sand with their arms linked. Mm, a pattern appears to be emerging. The fecklessness of nice-daddy Jamie (Robert Lindsay) had reached such jaw-dropping proportions that he intercepted the postman and tore up the family's eviction notices. Jake likewise refused to move house, and barricaded himself in his room. And just to complete the set of no-hopers, henpecked father-in-law Alex (David Ryall) continued to smoke and drink despite his cardiac condition.

Bleasdale is not the first writer to focus a tragedy on the male refusal to face facts. Ibsen did it once or twice; Arthur Miller does it all the time. But the cleverness is to write about it in 1990s Britain, when more than ever before, income and lifestyle are unrelated concepts, and marriages founder on material disappointment. Doubtless Bleasdale wished to avoid the more banal aspects of the dramatic situation he'd invented (squabbles about shopping), but as a petty-minded viewer, I feel free to gasp in horror whenever I notice that Jamie's cowboy boots (for example) appear to be brand new.

The Picture This (BBC2) documentary *Close Friends in Distant Rooms* attempted two quite separate things, for which there wasn't quite enough time. Brendan Wilson is a photographer who suffers from schizophrenia; the idea of this film was to introduce his similarly afflicted friends (Mattie, Neil and Sandra), while also somehow illustrating the psychotic experience in visual terms.

Both strands were interesting, but it was hard to see where, or why, they joined. A director from Aardman Animations (the company famous for Wallace and Gromit adventures) put together a short, surreal, black and white time-lapse film featuring a room, a chair, a man. The man taps his foot, and it drums like a woodpecker. A cigarette in his hand burns down its whole length in two seconds. Humans dressed as flies buzz around the room. A chandelier tinkles and its light-bulbs fuse. As a picture of madness it was quite scary enough; but only Brendan could say whether it evoked the real thing.

Meanwhile, Brendan's friends talked openly to camera, giving rise to the interesting speculation that the line between schizophrenia and documentary-making is perhaps dangerously thin. If the camera is present, you are OK: if it's not there, you're nuts. Good grief, one day Major Crispin may be discovered on his bunk saying "Because I like chips actually!" or "No, I don't think I'll get married in the near future!" And when he explains about little Molly in the corner, they will look round, see nothing, and gently lead him away.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (52778)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (86779339)
9.05 Kilroy (s) (8828448)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5974556) **10.05 Housemates** (s) (1724662)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (1855285)
12.00pm News (Ceefax) and weather (4270759)
12.05 Pebble Mill. With Brian Conley (s) (7575391)
12.50 Regional News and weather (49560943)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (24846)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (91794117)
1.50 Columbo (r) (Ceefax) (5815204)
3.05 The Great British Quiz (r) (8388682)
3.30 Orville and Cuddles (r) (1615136) **3.35 Robinson Sucroe** (Ceefax) (s) (6476310) **4.00 The Itsy Bitsy Spider** (s) (1542196) **4.20 Jutta Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (6991285) **4.35 Record Breakers** (Ceefax) (s) (2357594)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (9516814)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (2608469)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4048914)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (843)
6.30 Regional news magazines (223) Northern Ireland: Neighbours 6.57 Inside Ulster News Wales 6.56 Drugs Awareness Week (272778)
7.00 Wipeout. Paul Daniels hosts the game show (1488)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stableford reports from Japan on a robot which rescues people from burning buildings; and Jez Nelson meets a British scientist who hopes to survive being locked in an airtight box with 30,000 wheat seedlings for 15 days, as part of the groundwork for a possible mission to Mars. (Ceefax) (s) (407)
8.00 999 Lifesavers. More dramatic tales of real-life rescues. (Ceefax) (s) (9326)

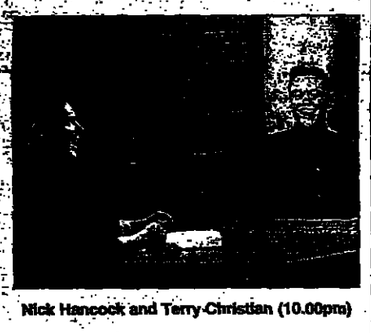


David Vine with the original teams (8.30pm)

8.30 A Question of Sport — the First 25 Years (Ceefax) (s) (9643)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax). Weather (2339)
9.30 Dangerfield. GP and police surgeon Dr Paul Dangerfield is faced with an ethical dilemma when his new colleague, Dr Roz Parker, withholds vital evidence from a murder inquiry. (Ceefax) (s) (919556) **Northern Ireland:** PK Tonight 10.15 Pudsey Newsdesk 10.20 Dangerfield 11.10 Film: Quigley Down Under 1.05am Inside Ulster News
10.20 FILM: Quigley Down Under (1990) starring Tom Selleck. Sharpshooter Quigley goes to Australia for a job which turns out to be shooting Aborigines for the outrageously villainous Alan Rickman. He wins the day but loses the film. Directed by Simon Wincer. (Ceefax) (s) (528223) **Wales:** The Way It Is (390594) 10.50 Film: Quigley Down Under (88424865) 12.45am Film: Cross My Heart (9172537) 2.10 News headlines (5694334)
12.15am FILM: Cross My Heart (1987). With Martin Short, Annette O'Toole. Comedy about a date that goes wrong because of each side's shyness and lack of honesty. Directed by Arnyan Bernstein (4491808) **1.40am Weather** (3978570)

BBC2

6.00am The Learning Zone — Technology season: Computing (62643) 6.30 Open Mind (6545827) 6.55 Opening up Technology (3923223)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1056253)
7.15 Lassie (r) (9947049) **7.40 Pirates of Dark Water** (r) (Ceefax) (9040440) **8.05 Smart** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6950907) **8.35 The Record** (6703846)
9.00 Quinze Minutes (6551843) **9.15 Teaching Today** (s) (573372) **9.45 Watch** (s) (8842846) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (1702440) **10.25 West Africa** (s) (2754020) **10.45 Square One TV** (s) (1167759) **11.00 Look and Read** (s) (5206372) **11.20 Short Circuit** (s) (3548846) **11.40 Techno** (s) (3150662)
12.00 English File (Ceefax) (s) (34198)
12.30pm Working Lunch. Business information (83852)
1.00 Scene (s) (22488) **1.30 Showcase** (s)(26504827) **1.40 Thunderbirds In French** (91418440) **1.45 Words and Pictures** (s) (26516662) **2.00 Fiddley Foodle Bird** (r) (s) (12348440)
2.10 Sport on Friday (448117) **3.55 News** (8220204) **4.00 Today's the Day** (s) (136)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (420)
5.00 Esther. Male v female drivers (s) (2594)
5.30 Going Going Gone. Auction game (s) (372)
6.00 The Munsters: Sleeping Cutie (b/w) (935440)
6.25 The New Avengers: House of Cards (Ceefax) (309827)
7.15 [redacted] Football, Fussball, Voetbal: Spain and Portugal (608020)
8.00 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens: Cottage Economy. Gardens which are used as working plots; and adapting small spaces to grow vegetables (r). (Ceefax) (s)(8778)
8.30 Janick Robinson's Wine Course: Riesling (7285)
9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3681)
9.30 Shooting Stars. Spoof game show. (Ceefax) (s) (70488)



Nick Hancock and Terry Christian (10.00pm)

10.00 [redacted] Room 101 presented by Nick Hancock. Terry Christian nominates his most hated things, people and places. (Ceefax) (s) (35827)
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (Ceefax) (580488)
11.15 Mondo Rosso: Freaks. Jonathan Ross looks at politically incorrect films, with titles such as *Freaks, Terror of Tiny Town* and *Chained for Life* (s) (114778) **11.45 Weather** (817594)
11.50 Close Up (809575) **11.55 FILM: Carny** (1980). Unusual road movie about a travelling carnival. With Jodie Foster and Gary Busey. Directed by Robert Kaylor (Ceefax) (265198). Ends at **1.45am**

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CHOICE



Comedy monologist Joyce Grenfell (C4, 9.00pm)

Heroes of Comedy: Joyce Grenfell
Channel 4, 9.00pm

To the extent that nobody can find a bad word to say about her, John Fisher's portrait of Joyce Grenfell becomes something of a litany. Admirers, including Maureen Lipman, Victoria Wood and Clive James, queue up to praise a brilliant monologist and a woman driven by the power of good. In truth her famous sketches, happily preserved on film, do not need recommendation. The programme would be worth watching just to hear her primary school teacher telling young George not to do it. Her range may have been narrow, rarely straying from middle class ladies, but, as Wood says, she picked on what she could do and got better and better at it. Above all, she combined acute observation with a total lack of malice.

Football, Fussball, Voetbal
BBC2, 7.15pm (not Scotland)

The second new football series of the week is a survey of the European game since the start of the Champions' Cup nearly 40 years ago. Unlike *Kicking and Screaming*, which puts the game into a wider social context, this project stays more or less on the pitch. Clips of famous matches are supplemented by the memories of the players who adorned them. *Tonight's opener deals with Spain and Portugal. Since* Real Madrid won the first five European Cups and Benfica the next two, this is appropriate. But it means that once the glories of Di Stefano, Puskas and Eusebio have been recounted, the programme tends to tail off into anticlimax. Writer-presenter Barry Davies does a workmanlike job of pulling the story together.

A Question of Sport: The First 25 Years
BBC1, 8.30pm

The appeal of this long-running show is that it is simple, entertaining and accessible to viewers who normally cannot stand sport. It is also the quiz in which getting answers wrong provides much better television than getting them right. This anniversary celebration offers an anthology of such gaffes, from Emlyn Hughes mistaking the Princess Royal for a male jockey to the Princess herself mixing up a footballer and a woman javelin champion. This retrospective is notable, too, for footage of the normally deadpan Nigel Mansell doubled up in laughter. There is even a hint of a smile from Kenny Dalglish. Cliff Morgan, an early star, says he hopes the programme will run for ever. The new series starts next week.

Room 101
BBC2, 10.00pm

Terry Christian, who rounds off the current series, has the distinction of himself being consigned to the crematorium for the tacky. Or, to be precise, his former programme, *The Word*, was put there by Maureen Lipman. Terry is not a vengeful chap, so Lipman escapes his personal hit list. Instead he lets his northern, working-class prejudices show by choosing public schoolboys, backpackers and *Blue Peter*. As a Manchester United fan, he could hardly be expected to warm to Kenny Dalglish. His point, though, is that *nobody* finds it easy to warm to Kenny Dalglish. As always, presenter Nick Hancock tries to upstage his guest with jokes of his own. To his credit, Christian more than holds his ground. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV including Mr Motivator (7910407)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Quiz (s) (5284933)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (1729117)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (9652198)
10.35 This Morning Magazine show (39061575)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (4289643)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) (9620198)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9638117)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (22435469)
1.55 Shortland Street (91782372)
2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show (s) (44793759)
2.50 High Road. (Teletext) (8650001)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (2359961)
3.25 London Today and capital weather (3709402)
3.30 Jays World (s) (4806407) **3.40 The Spooks of Bottle Bay** (s) (8189469)
4.00 Simply the Best CITV Awards. Guests include Take That, East 17 and Deuce. (Teletext) (s) (8418339)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. Anthony Andrews talks about *Haunted* (1755865)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (499117)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (962594)
6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (656372)
7.00 Family Fortunes (Teletext) (s) (6556)
7.30 Coronation Street. The residents flock to watch Betty Turpin wed Billy Williams. (Teletext) (575)
8.00 The Bill: Off Limits. While investigating reports of a terrifying scream, Quinnan and Datta uncover a family of hermits. Is their barricaded home a fortress or a prison? (Teletext) (5204)
8.30 Strange But True? The Enfield Poltergeist. Presenter Michael Aspel talks to a family who saw a sofa levitate, a researcher who believes he recorded the voice of a dead man and witnesses who say they saw a young girl fly. Tonight the family speaks of their terror and new evidence which claims to identify the poltergeist. (Teletext) (s) (4339)



Sarah Jane Potts, Teddie Thompson (9.00pm)

9.00 Medics: Second Chance. Helen and Hoyt's relationship reaches crisis point; Alison's (Teddie Thompson) exhaustion leads to a tragic mix-up concerning a young patient (Sarah Jane Potts). (Teletext) (s) (6643)
10.00 ITN News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (55681)
10.30 Friday Night Almost Live. Ben Elton presents some of the best moments from the Channel 4 live music and comedy show (r) (91827)
11.30 Doctor Fox's Video Jukebox (58169)
12.30am London Tonight (Teletext) (6210995)
12.40 Sledge Hammer: The Spa Who Loved Me. Detective series (9263082)
1.05 The James Whale Show (s) (1581150)
2.05 The Chart Show (s) (9872711)
3.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (86427228)
3.25 Noisy Mothers (s) (1615537)
4.30 The New Music (96063)
5.30 ITN Morning News (82889). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff (r) (6562594)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (14469)
9.00 Sabotage. Women-only quiz (r) (s) (32730)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (6849759) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (6837914) **10.00** Fourways Farm (5981846) **10.10** Believe It or Not (3924846) **10.27** Maths Book (2765136) **10.40** Off Limits (8172933) **11.05** The Way Things Go (3538496) **11.20** Stage One (3542662) **11.35** Schools at Work (5576448) **11.40** How We Used to Live (3145730)
12.00pm Garden Doctors (r) (s) (52594)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series (12117)
1.30 Katie and Orbie (r) (77391)
2.00 Gramplan Sheepdog Trials (6310)
2.30 FILM: Tawny Pipit (1944, b/w). Bernard Miles wrote, directed (with Charles Saunders) and starred in this comedy about the effect on the inhabitants of a Cotswold village when a pair of rare birds build a nest in a nearby meadow (55865)
4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz (s) (204)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Quiz (Teletext) (s) (488)
5.00 Cutting Edge: The Trouble with Money (r) (Teletext) (s) (3469)
6.00 Blossom (r) (Teletext) (s) (681)
6.30 Happy Days (r) (Teletext) (666933)
6.55 Murun Buchstansangur. Cartoon (265488)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (236827)
7.55 Book Choice. A review of *Sabbath Theater* by Philip Roth (s) (565285)
8.00 Garden Doctors. Horticultural designer Dan Pearson helps to revive the land around a converted almshouse in Brixton, south London (3846)



David Crosbie prepares for a spree (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside. David Crosbie (John Burgess) receives a windfall. (Teletext) (s) (5681)
9.00 [redacted] Heroes of Comedy: Joyce Grenfell. A portrait of the comedian (s) (4285)
10.00 Frasier. The American sit-com goes back to its roots, *Cheers*, when Sam (Ted Danson) arrives in Seattle. (Teletext) (s) (53223)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back to, among others, Eartha Kitt (s) (584204)
11.10 Passengers. Youth magazine series. Lisa Londregan, an Australian lesbian cop who works as gay and lesbian liaison officer in Sydney, presents her video diary (s) (112136)
12.00am NBA Live: The McDonald's Championship. Second day of the three-day basketball event, the two winners from last night meet in the semi-finals, while the Houston Rockets play the Australian champions. Tomorrow: the final (45995)
1.00 FILM: Train of Dreams (1987). Study of a delinquent 17-year-old (Jason St Amour), whose criminal behaviour leads to a two-year sentence in an Ontario correctional institute. Directed by John N. Smith (754957)
2.40 FILM: Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror (1942, b/w). With Basil Rathbone perfectly cast as the Baker Street sleuth, and Nigel Bruce as Dr Watson. Directed by John Rawlins (8553605). Ends at **3.55**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (22435469) **1.55** A Country Practice (91782372) **2.20-2.50** Murder, She Wrote (3758198) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (1755865) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (391) **10.30** Anglia News Extra (31000) **11.00** Six Pairs of Pants (2952) **11.30** Rockdoker (629759) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (2442518) **1.30** The Loop (98783) **2.00** Blood Ties (2216805) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (2865857) **4.05** The Album Show (5419421) **5.00** Freescreen (23773)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: **12.25-12.30** My Story (42778862) **12.55** Coronation Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (22435469) **1.55** Frances Bissell's Westcountry Kitchen (47600117) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (6229759) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (2442518) **1.30** The Loop (98783) **2.00** Blood Ties (2216805) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (2865857) **4.05** The Album Show (5419421) **5.00** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (23773)

CENTRAL

As London except: **1.55** A Country Practice (91782372) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (3758198) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (1755865) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (656372) **10.40** Central Weekend (3600643) **12.10am** Who Do You Do? (8897402) **12.40** First Cut (9280082) **4.25** Jobfinder (8397228) **5.20** Asian Eye (4099995)

GRANADA

As London except: **12.35-1.25** Shortland Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (81732833) **1.50** Blue Heelers (8304117) **2.50-3.20** Surprise Gardeners (98500001) **5.10-5.40** High Road (1755865) **6.25** Granada Tonight (656372) **10.40** Passion Specials (457894) **11.10** *You're Back!* (981594) **11.25-1.05am** Film: Johnny Dangerously (951223)

HTV WEST

As London except: **12.55** Shortland Street (5895049) **1.20** High Road (22436198) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (3758198) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (1755865) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (391) **10.45** Film: The Hunter (88458440) **12.35am** The Good Sex Guide Abroad (2721783)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **2.20** Designed by Emanuel (44793759) **2.50-3.20** The New Mr and Mrs Show (8650001) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (391)

MERIDIAN

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (22435469) **1.55** A Country Practice (91782372) **2.20-2.50** Housepanty (44793759) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (3709402) **5.10** Home and Away (1755865) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Your Story (838020) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (82469) **11.00** Six Pairs of Pants (2952) **11.30** Rockdoker (629759) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (2442518) **1.30** The Loop (98783) **2.00** Blood Ties (2216805) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (2865857) **4.05** The Album Show (5419421) **5.00** Freescreen (23773)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: **12.25-12.30** My Story (42778862) **12.55** Coronation Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (22435469) **1.55** Frances Bissell's Westcountry Kitchen (47600117) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (6229759) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (2442518) **1.30** The Loop (98783) **2.00** Blood Ties (2216805) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (2865857) **4.05** The Album Show (5419421) **5.00** Freescreen (23773)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: **2.55** Coronation Street (9638117) **1.25** Home and Away (22435469) **1.55** A Country Practice (91782372) **2.20** Murder, She Wrote (2955865) **3.10** Help Yourself (4254597) **3.15-3.20** Five Minutes (5804038) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (1755865) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (967865) **6.30-7.00** It's a Vet's Life (391) **10.40** Tales from the Crypt (457894) **11.10** War and Remembrance (237594) **2.05am** The Big E (9872711) **3.00** The Best (2889773) **3.55** Shift (6828334) **4.45** Nile Sites (64416806) **4.55** Music Video (40185421) **5.00** ITV Sport Classics (23773)

S4C

Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (14469) **9.00** Sabotage (32730) **9.30** Ysgolion/schools (74204) **9.30** Eureka! (5840758) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8837914) **10.00** Fourways Farm (5981846) **10.10** Believe It or Not (3924846) **10.27** Maths Book (2765136) **10.40** Off Limits (8172933) **11.05** The Way Things Go (3538496) **11.20** Stage One (3542662) **11.35** Schools at Work (5576448) **11.40** How We Used to Live (3145730) **12.00pm** Sesame Street (64827) **1.00** Sbot Matthin (17556) **1.30** Film: Esther Waters (50310) **3.30** Desperately Seeking Something (469) **4.00** Think Tank (204) **4.30** Gramplan Sheepdog Trials (488) **5.00** 5 Pump Terrapin (8772991) **5.15** 5 Pump: Syth 95 (8538759) **5.30** Fifteen to One (440) **6.00** Newyddion (328778) **6.15** Hand (386001) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (200827) **7.25** Y Tri Dimensiwn (962865) **8.00** Ymo Mae Nghibin (3846) **8.30** Newyddion (6681) **9.00** Noson Fawr Da Vernon (5040) **9.30** Ellen: The Boyfriend Stealer (55556) **10.00** Brookside (33223) **10.30** Clive Anderson (594204) **11.15** Passengers (112136) **12.00am** Basketball (45995) **1.00** Film: Train of Dreams (754957) **2.40** Film: Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror (8553605)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (61391) **7.30** Double Dragon (57196) **8.00** Mighty Morphin (86575) **8.30** Jeopardy (95846) **9.00** Court TV (76198) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (89196) **10.30** Blockbusters (96310) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (66846) **12.00** Spellbound (86862) **12.30pm** Designing Women (12486) **1.00** The Waltons (41358) **2.00** Geraldo (33020) **3.00** Court TV (3865) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey Show (3226846) **4.30** Kids TV (1714952) **4.30** Double Dragon (1136) **5.00** Star Trek: the Next Generation (4117) **6.00** Mighty Morphin (2001) **6.30** Spellbound (8681) **7.00** LAPD (5848) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2885) **8.00** Who Do You Do? (4594) **8.30** Coppers (9601) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (67952) **10.00** Star Trek: the Next Generation (77338) **11.00** Law and Order (67339) **12.00** Late Show (5494518) **12.45am** The Extraordinary (7852605) **1.30** Anything But Love (74896) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (3005711)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3040581) **10.30** ABC Nightline (99252) **11.00** News and Business (999594) **1.30pm** CBS News (46759) **2.30** Parliament (84186) **3.30** This Week In the Lords (1769) **4.00** News and Business (39594) **5.00** Live at Five (2758) **6.00** Sky News at Six (1363) **8.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (97885) **8.00** News and Business (2135) **9.30** The Entertainment Show (553566) **11.30** News (99894) **12.30am** News Tonight (82711) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (74197) **2.30** Target (78226) **3.30** This Week In the Lords (73773) **4.30** CBS Evening News (26515) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight (85911)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (1288581) **10.00 Matinee** (1993) (16204) **12.00 Ladybug Ladybug** (1963) (47225) **2.00pm Valley of the Gwangi** (1969) (51391) **4.00 Bushfire Moon** (1987) (9049) **6.00 Metisse** (1993) (48827) **8.00 Fatal Instinct** (1993): (43372) **10.00 Knights** (1992)(663223) **11.35 Nowhere To Run** (1993) (177466) **1.00am King of the Hill** (1993) (646024) **2.50 Nightmare City** (1987) (306895) **4.25 Ladybug Ladybug** (1963) (998062)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00pm Pillow Talk (1959) (57420) **2.00 The Appaloosa** (1966) (26543) **4.00 In Name Only** (1939)(7665) **6.00 The Yellow Rolls Royce** (1964) (46407) **8.00 Stripes** (1981) (41952) **10.00 The Cotton Club** (1984) (72393198) **12.15am Supervixens** (1975) (826529) **2.05-3.50 The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie** (1972) (527266)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tarzan Finds A Son (1939)**8.00 Heathcliff — the Movie** (1985) (22914) **10.00 Francis** (1950) (14846) **12.00 Eureka Stockade** (1949) (45865) **2.00pm Tarzan Finds a Son** (1939) (59893) **4.00 Heathcliff — the Movie** (1985) (7961) **6.00 Labor of Love: The Arlette Schweitzer Story** (1993) (75676) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (55751) **8.00 Getting Out** (1993) Released prisoner Rebecca DeMornay searches for her son (41914) **10.00 Single White Female** (1992): With Bridget Fonda (18188) **12.00 The Philadelphia Experiment 2** (1993): A US destroyer travels back in time to 1943 (153063) **1.40am Black Fox** (1994): Texan settlers rescue villagers kidnapped by Kiowa Indians (363880) **3.15 Seventh Floor** (1993): Revisionist drama (87518155)

● **For more film information, see the Video supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (14407) **7.30** World Wrestling (55372) **8.30** Aerobics Oz Style (10117) **9.00** Tight Lines (55331) **10.00** Golf — The Alfred Dunhill Cup — Live (32336631) **5.00pm** World Wrestling (8575) **6.00** Sports Centre (49458) **7.00** Basketball (36355594) **8.55** Sports Centre (983833) **9.00** Ringside Boxing (86001) **11.00** Sports Centre (90827) **12.00** The Rugby Club (25179) **1.00am** Basketball (78808) **3.00-5.00** Boxing (39179)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00am The Rugby Club (5454407) **7.00** Finish Line (1201020) **7.30** Mountain Bikes (94231998) **8.00** Golf — Alfred Dunhill Cup (29683991) **10.00-12.00** World Pool Championships (4703488)

EUROSPORT

8.30am Formula 1 (81049) **9.30** Triathlon (17812) **10.30** Eurotun (25046) **11.00** Football (68556) **1.00pm** Formula 1 (48020) **2.00** Live Tennis (5053865) **6.30** Formula 1 (32759) **7.30** Eurosport News (13911) **8.00** Live Tennis (89198) **10.00** Formula 1 (91933) **11.00** Pro Wrestling (18223) **12.00** International Motorsports Report (10247) **1.00-1.30am** Eurosport News (31889)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (4383117) **8.30** Peyton Place (4382486) **9.00** As the World Turns (8255594) **10.00** Guiding Light (2731914) **11.00-12.00** Another World (2751778)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 Globetrotter (4386204) **12.30pm** Boomerang (5448488) **1.00** Great Sports Vacations (2755594) **1.30** Pierre Franey's Cooking In America (5445759) **2.00** Ticket To Paradise (1207204) **2.30** On Top of the World (9435933) **3.00** Independent Travellers Guide (4704117) **4.00** Video Trips (9426265) **4.30** Colorado River Adventures (9422469) **5.00** Ticket To Paradise (1286558) **5.30-6.00** Around The World.. in 30 Minutes (9446049)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7320681) **9.30** Cooking (7503946) **10.00** Scotland's Larder (1667265) **10.30** Soul Mates (7928965) **11.00** Only Human (9405223) **12.00** Youth Express (7317117) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (7507682) **1.00** Cooking (9416339) **1.30** The Joy of Painting (7508933) **2.00** The Right Thing? (9424488) **2.30** Get Well Soon (7828407) **3.00** In Search of Scotland's Larder (9436223) **3.30-4.00** Two's Country (7623952)

UK GOLD

7.00am The Chronicles of Narnia (9486198) **7.30** Neighbours (9498833) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7916488) **8.30** EastEnders (7915758) **9.00** The Bill (7938339) **9.30** The Sullivans (7505204) **10.00** Bergerac (9494117) **11.00** Dallas (9407681) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7918575) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7509020) **1.00** EastEnders (9485489) **1.30** The Bill (7508391) **2.00** The Sullivans (51474391) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (8746862) **3.00** Everybody's Equal (9438681) **3.30** Eldorado (7825310) **4.00** Casualty (42995551) **5.05** Every Second Counts (4669914) **5.45** Are You Being Served? (4915952) **6.25** EastEnders (97633391) **7.00** Eldorado (9420662) **7.30** The Upchat Line (7601730) **8.00** Morecambe and Wise (1025730) **9.00** Miami Vice (1046594) **10.00** The Bill (2618575) **10.35** Classic Sport (51840158) **11.40** The Young Ones (7183310) **12.20ams** Dr Who (2348411) **12.50** FILM: Psychomania — With Beryl Reid (59052353) **2.20-3.30** Shopping (73485173)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Casper (78778) **7.00** Pink Panther (30020) **7.30** Ready Or Not (26827) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (48914) **8.30** Casper (53791136) **8.45** Dinobabies (53673891) **9.00** Sesame Street (89579) **10.00** Tiny TCC (76285) **12.00** Barney (41001) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (81223) **2.30** Madeline (7730) **3.00** Sonic (9223) **3.30** Pink Panther (9576) **4.00** California Dreams (1310) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (778)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Batfink (9177020) **7.05** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7690285) **7.45** Rugrats (638778) **8.15** The Ferals (7723310) **8.45** Count Duckula (7698092) **9.00** Nick Jr (435440) **12.00** Lunchbox (12575) **12.30pm** Pee Wee's Playhouse (61338) **1.00** The Ferals (60420) **1.30** Dungeons (53310) **2.00** Denver (6730) **2.30** Galaxy High School (3372) **3.00** Count Duckula (5885) **3.30** The Legend of the North Wind (5117) **4.00** Teenage Mutant (7952) **4.30** Rugrats (3136) **5.00** Clarissa (4010) **5.30** Aaagh! Real Monsters (4488) **6.00** Doug (4001) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8681)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Untamed Africa (5858469) **5.00** Vanishing Worlds (9427575) **6.00** Future Quest (9742846) **6.35** Beyond 2000 (5448858) **7.30** History's Mysteries (7609372) **8.00** Lonely Planet (1024372) **9.00** Wings Over the World (1044136) **10.00** The Sexual Imperative (1047223) **11.00-12.00** Azimuth (9483488)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Wild Women of Wongo — Amazonian women enslave men (3074730) **1.30pm** The Invisible Man (7500759) **2.00** Saint (1655440) **3.00** Robin Hood (9430049) **3.30** The Protectors (7627778) **4.00** FILM: Sweet Hostage (9434865) **6.00** Death Valley Days (7616662) **6.30** The Wild Wild West(1055759) **7.30** The Adventures of Robin Hood (7603198) **8.00** Saint (1028198) **9.00** Man In A Suitcase (1031662) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Creepshow — five horror shorts (5885759)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9455489) **7.00** Living Magazine (1812662) **9.00** Going To Pot (7880049) **9.30** Kate & Allie (1192556) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (9148662) **10.40** Bride of the Day (40212827) **10.50** Entertainment Now (40241339) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (4597643) **11.55** The Taste of Health (6564730) **12.30pm** Infatuation UK (4924865) **1.05** Best of Kilroy (8325030) **2.00** Woman's Cancer Challenge Appeal (2045204) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9767001) **4.30** Crosswits (7624204) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (30518335) **5.30** Bewitched (9787865) **6.00** Esther (9784778) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (3451662) **7.05** Amanda's Story (3271310) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (67061989) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (2033469) **9.00** FILM: Fame: Who Will Love My Children? Terminally-ill mother finds homes for her children (17683020) **10.50** Entertainment Now (6481407) **11.00-12.00** Dangerous Women (1809168)

Cardiff try to get Davies at the double



Pinkney: retained

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CARDIFF Rugby [union] Football *Club are hoping that the Halifax* World Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tomorrow will be the penultimate or final game of rugby league that Jonathan Davies plays, amid fresh moves to get the Wales captain released from his contract at Warrington before the cut-off point for the Heineken League, on October 31.

If Wales beat England and Cardiff the registration deadline, it is *possible that Davies could figure in* the rugby league World Cup final at Wembley tomorrow week and for Cardiff in their home league fixture with Aberavon the next Saturday. That, anyway, is the theory.

As there has been a reported *suggestion that Cardiff have made a* provisional agreement with Davies, Warrington's stance on the buying out of the remaining 21 months on his contract, with compensation on top, might be the bigger stumbling block. Warrington want at least £200,000, yet would probably settle for less. A fortnight ago, Cardiff said that they could go no higher than £30,000, a figure that was unacceptable to Graham Armstrong, the Warrington chief executive.

Cardiff, through their solicitors, this week faxed Warrington, inquiring as to a precise compensation figure. Armstrong was unequivocal yesterday. "It's clear; they want *Jonathan straight away," he said.* "They will have to wait, unless they come up with £200,000 or more. Jonathan is under contract with us until June 1997."

In a bitter impasse, Armstrong warned that, if Davies was signed *up without compensation, Warring*ton would take legal steps against Cardiff and sue Davies for breach of contract. "Jonathan has been told by Peter Higham, the Warrington chairman, that we expect him back training at our club immediately his World Cup commitments are over," Armstrong said.

Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, was unavailable last *night, but has said that Warrington* must ask whether they want an unhappy player not performing at his best. This is far from the total picture, but Davies, 33 next week, is eager to return to Wales.

Compromise lies probably halfway between the figures put forward. Davies could not simply walk out on Warrington, but significant have been his committed displays for Wales in the World Cup.

Injuries, rather than the continuing talk of players returning to rugby union, are of more immediate concern to Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, who yesterday called Phil Ford and Jonathan Griffiths into a 20-man squad as a precaution should John Devereux and Scott Gibbs fail fitness tests today. The one definite absentee is Neil Cowie from the front row.

England have retained Nick Pinkney in the centre, after two tries in a fine display against South Africa, and Martin Offiah on the wing, after a less than wonderful performance. If John Bentley was not undergoing treatment for a hamstring injury, Offiah might have had to sit out the semi-final.

Phil Larder, the England coach, admitted that he considered leaving out Offiah because of his lack of confidence in the game against South Africa, but that he had come through training exceptionally strong. "I have no worries about Martin," he said. "You've got to go into a game like this with 13 players who are 100 per cent fit, physically *and mentally; and they all are."*

Gary Connolly, the Wigan centre, who returned to training only this week after pneumonia, is in contention for a place on the bench. If Bobbie Goulding excels at scrum half in a winning performance, the expected recovery of Shaun Edwards, from a knee infection, would leave Larder a tricky selection choice for the final.

In Edwards's absence, Denis Betts again assumes the captaincy. He sees a formidable Wales pack as the biggest danger. "We've not to get dragged into a competition of who's the toughest," he said. "We're there to play rugby, and that's what we *can do better than them."*

☐ Garry Schofield, of Leeds, has been severely reprimanded by the Rugby Football League (RFL). Schofield was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute yesterday after accusing Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the RFL, of vetoing his selection for the England World Cup squad.

ENGLAND: K Radlinski (Wigan); J Robinson (Wigan), N Pinkney (Keighley), P Newlove (Bradford), M Offiah (Wigan); D Powell (Keighley), R Goulding (St Helens); K Harrison (Halifax), L Jackson (Newcastle Knights), A Platt (Auckland), D Betts (Auckland, capt), P Clarke (Sydney City), A Farrell (Wigan). Substitutes to be confirmed.

WALES: Backs: P Atcheson (Oldham), A Bateman (Dronfield), J Devereux (Widnes), J Davies (Warrington, capt), K Ellis (N Queensland), P Ford (Salford), S Gibbs, J Griffiths (both St Helens), A Hadley (Widnes), I Harris (Warrington), A Sullivan (St Helens). Forwards: K Cunningham (St Helens), R Eyres (Leeds), M Hall (Wigan), M Jones (Warrington), P Moriarty (Halifax), R Phillips (Workington), S Quinnell, K Skerrett (both Wigan), D Young (Salford).

Ireland triumph in Dunhill Cup

Walton savours another defeat of United States

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT this time of the month *an Irishman with a mop of fair* hair and a high-pitched voice grabs the headlines. In July, Philip Walton walked out of the Open Championship knowing that he was about to miss the cut. In September, he *beat Jay Haas to ensure a* victory for Europe in the Ryder Cup. Yesterday, he birdied the 18th hole of the Old Course at St Andrews to make sure of a 3-0 victory for unseeded Ireland over the United States, the top seeds, in the first round of the Alfred Dunhill Cup.

"It was a team effort," Walton said, lifting off his visor and running a hand through hair that had been blown this way and that by a strong wind. "We have no *captain as such. It was a good* match. I was surprised to see the scores. It was a tough day, yet everyone was keeping it around par."

There were two strokes that spelt defeat for the Americans. *The first was Lee Janzen's* drive on the 18th. For St Andrews aficionados it could be described thus: it was veering to the right from the moment it left the tee and soared over the Swilcan Burn. It crossed Grannie Clark's Wynd and headed towards the St Andrews Woollen Mill before ending up rattling around in The Links, the road that runs parallel to much of the *18th fairway.*

Such a stroke would not be out of place in the spring meeting or the autumn medal at St Andrews, or on any day when players with an enthusiasm that is not matched by skill are allowed onto the Old Course. But it was not what was expected from the leading money-winner on the US PGA Tour, the man who should have played for the United States in the Ryder Cup.

"I would like to give you one of the top ten excuses as to why *I hit it out of bounds," Janzen* said manfully, "but you don't have any excuses if you hit it out of bounds at St Andrews."

And with that Darren Clarke beat Janzen just moments after Ronan Rafferty *had holed a long putt on the* 17th to maintain his one-stroke lead over Ben Crenshaw. This was the second important stroke for Ireland. The putt was all of 40 feet and as Crenshaw, the Masters champion, was close to the hole, Rafferty felt sure that Crenshaw would hole for a birdie, as indeed he did.

"Ronan's was a beautiful putt and that was the match *right there," Crenshaw said.* All that was left was for Walton, playing last, to birdie the 18th and outscore Peter Jacobsen by one stroke.

The United States may be one of the strongest golfing nations in the world but the Irish have the Indian sign over them. The score is 4-1 to Ireland in this competition. "It is becoming boring," an Irishman joked. "Perhaps we should demand stronger opposition."

Rafferty was asked why Ireland beat the more fancied teams so often. "Probably because we are not expected to win," Rafferty replied. "In 18-hole individual matches it can be all over in a flash. It does *not matter who you are playing.* There is never a safe lead until you are going up the 18th with a four-stroke lead."

In view of Ireland's record against the United States, perhaps one should not regard *this victory as a surprise. It* was a surprise, however, when José Coceres, of Argentina, outplayed Greg Norman by three strokes. Steve Elkington and Craig Parry came to Norman's — and Australia's — rescue, Parry finishing birdie, birdie to stave off defeat for the second seeds.

Norman's demeanour in defeat was exemplary. Nobody loses as gracefully as he does, though some say he has more *practice at it than others. "I got* beat," Norman said. "I didn't make any birdies and I had four three-putts. That was the end of my day. He was very tough. He beat me convincingly. I hope it gives him a lot of confidence. There is nothing wrong with his game. He can play good golf. I hope this will kick him on to being a better player."



Andrew Coltart lines up a putt on his way to beating Chen Liang-Hsi in Scotland's 3-0 success against Taiwan. Photograph: Ian Stewart

GROUP ONE: United States 0 Ireland 3 (United States names first). L Janzen 73 lost to D Clarke 71; B Crenshaw 71 lost to R Rafferty 70; P Jacobsen 73 lost to P Walton 72. Canada 0 Sweden 3 (Canada names first): D Barr 77 lost to J Pamevik 70; R Stewart 73 lost to J Sandelin 72; R Gibson 71 lost to P-U Johansson 69.

GROUP TWO: Scotland 3 Taiwan 0 (Scotland names first): A Coltart 66 bt Chen Liang-Hsi 73; S Torrance 75 bt Lu Wen-Teh 81. C Montgomerie 71 Chung Chun-Hsing 80. South Africa 2 Germany 1 (South Africa names first): R Goosen 70 bt H P Thuel 72; D Frost 74 lost to S Struver 73; E Els 70 bt A Cejka 72.

GROUP THREE: New Zealand 2 Japan 1 (New Zealand names first): M Campbell 68 bt H Kase 73; F Nobilo 71 bt T Watanabe 75; G Turner 73 lost to N Seitzawa 72. Zimbabwe 3 Wales 0 (Zimbabwe names first): T Johnstone 73 bt M Mouland 75; N Price 67 bt P Attlock 70; M McNulty 69 bt I Woosnam 74.

GROUP FOUR: Australia 2 Argentina 1 (Australia names first): G Norman 75 lost to J Coceres 72; S Elkington 72 bt E Romero 74; C Parry 70 bt V Fernandez 71. England 1 Spain 2 (England names first): B Lane 74 bt J Rivero 75; M James 77 lost to M A Jimenez 73; H Clark 76 lost to I Garrido 75.

TODAY: Group one: Canada v Ireland; United States v Sweden. Group two: South Africa v Taiwan; Scotland v Germany. Group three: New Zealand v Wales; Zimbabwe v Japan. Group four: England v Argentina; Australia v Spain.

Dicks considers appeal after FA imposes three-match ban

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

JULIAN DICKS, the West Ham United defender, has been suspended for three matches after being found guilty of violent conduct by the *Football Association. An FA* disciplinary commission met for three hours yesterday before finding against the former England Under-21 and B international.

Dicks's brush with the authorities, the latest in an 11-year career in which he has received 54 bookings and nine dismissals, followed an incident during West Ham's 3-1 defeat against Chelsea at Upton Park five weeks ago. After challenging John Spencer, the Chelsea forward, Dicks appeared to stamp on his opponent's head as he lay on the ground. Spencer needed eight stitches in the wound.

Although Robbie Hart, the referee, appeared not to see exactly what happened, and deemed it worth no more than a caution, he was asked to review it on video. He changed his mind and is believed to have advised the FA to take the matter further, which it did by charging Dicks with bringing the game into disrepute.

West Ham greeted the verdict with disbelief yesterday. "Julian is very disappointed by the verdict," Peter Storrie, the managing director, said. "The short sentence imposed shows, in our view, that there was an element of doubt in the commission's mind.

"The club will not be fining the player. Julian maintained throughout the hearing that the incident was an accident. *We will now consider an* appeal within the next 14 days."

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Dicks, 27, spoke for ten minutes at the hearing and insisted that Spencer's injury had been caused accidentally. A representative from the Physical Education Association, who appeared in his defence, stated that, in the relevant fraction of a second, a collision had been inevitable.

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "After just deliberation, the commission concluded Julian Dicks was guilty of an act of violent conduct. He is to be banned from three matches from Monday, November 6, and has been ordered to pay the costs of today's hearing."

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said: "I've spoken to Julian many times about the incident and he swore that it wasn't deliberate. I'm convinced he is innocent. It was highlighted on television and everybody jumped on the bandwagon. That's *why the charge was brought."*

Although Spencer was unable to attend the commission, he has maintained that he felt there was no intent involved in the incident. "We went in for a shoulder charge and I ended *up on the ground."* Spencer said. "He put his foot down and my head was in the way. It was just part and parcel of the game."

Dicks was sent off five days after the Chelsea match, for committing two bookable offences in the 1-0 defeat against Arsenal, at Highbury, and for which he has since served a *one-match suspension.*

☐ From next season, Premiership clubs will be able to select five substitutes per match, three of whom can be used. The proposal was agreed at the autumn meeting of the FA Premier League yesterday.

Sri Lanka win new admirers

ALTHOUGH the new-look West Indies cricket side will start as favourites, Sri Lanka can expect the crowd's support in the final of the Champions Trophy in Sharjah today. Sri Lanka, fresh from their 2-1 Test series win over Pakistan, earned local admiration for the way they chased the West Indies' score of 333 in the game on Monday, falling only four runs short.

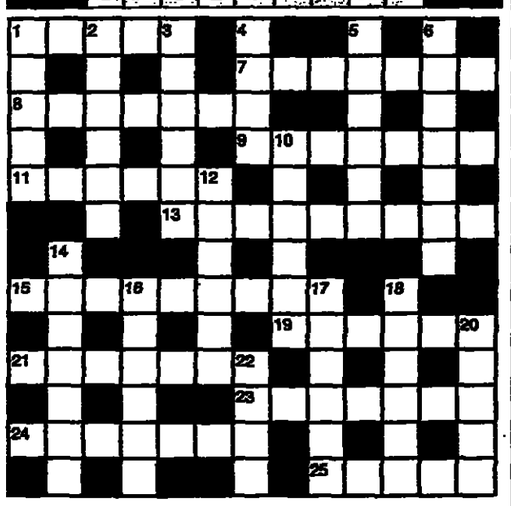
West Indies have won four of their six tournaments in Sharjah and did well to reach this final after losing their two opening matches. But Sri Lankan confidence is high. "We know we are mentally stronger now, but we have to prove it," their manager, *Duleep Mendis, said.*

"Runs will flow here and I expect the side which fields the best to win. We must maintain the high standards we have set for ourselves."

West Indies, without Walsh, Ambrose, Hooper, Adams and Arthurton, will be *depending heavily on Brian* Lara, who put the Sri Lankan bowlers to the sword on Monday when he scored 169.

Andy Roberts, the manager, said his team had found form at the right time and he was confident.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 605

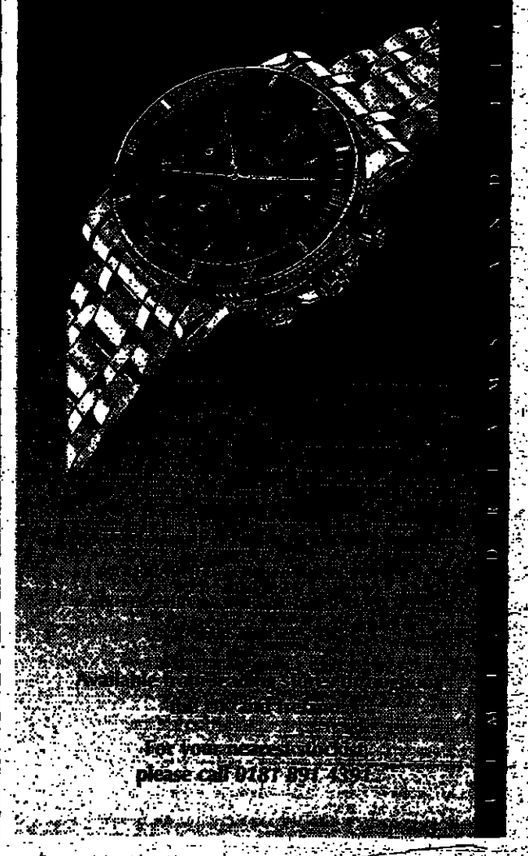
ACROSS
1 Prepare, clothe (5)
7 *Eight-sided figure (7)*
8 Everlasting (7)
9 Wide river mouth (7)
11 Arrange, spend (3,3)
13 Without hesitation (4,1,4)
15 Activity sure to disappoint (1,4,4)
19 Showed boredom (6)
21 Last course of meal (7)
23 *Untanned leather (whip) (7)*
24 Short work of fiction (7)
25 *Look after, defend (5)*

DOWN
1 *Live, linger (5)*
2 John —, diarist: — Waugh, novelist (6)
3 Wicked (6)
4 *European; post (4)*
5 French undergrowth, Resistance (6)
6 French dynasty; a biscuit (7)
10 Humid; erotic (novel) (6)
12 Bouncy animal *(Pooh)* (6)
14 A Beethoven concerto; a *penguin (7)*
16 Certain truth (6)
17 *Long thin insect, forceps*-like appendages (6)
18 Severe chest pain (6)
20 Intense fear (5)
22 Hidden danger (4)

The solution to 604 will be published Wednesday, October 25

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